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Everlasting Immortal Firmament - Chapter 1

Chapter 1—The Military God King

The sixth of June! Whereabouts: Longgang, Chen Kingdom!

Black clouds covered the sky, a chilly wind sweeping across the ground. In Longgang tens of thousands of injured soldiers were stationed, giving off the impression that a defeat in battle had occurred recently. In the center of the crowd, guarded by a multitude of soldiers, stood a yellow tent.

The yellow tent was filled with officials, all looking worriedly towards an imperial couch.

On the imperial couch sat an elderly man dressed in sovereign court robes¹, around sixty years old, his complexion pale, unceasingly coughing. By his side stood a chamberlain who carefully attended to him, from time to time wiping off the blood that was coughed onto the corners of his mouth.

On the imperial couch, there was also an approximately forty year old man clothed in white, at the moment both of his hands supported the back of the robed elderly man. It seemed as if he was helping the robed elderly man transport qi, who was healing ever so slightly.

“Pu!”

The robed elderly man spurted out a mouthful of fresh blood, his healing having come to an end. Moreover, the robed elderly man’s condition seemed to have taken a turn for the worse, his appearance even more deathly pale.

“Father²!” In the midst of the crowd of officials, a middle aged man wearing a court robe suddenly shouted in alarm.

“Emperor!” A multitude of court officials suddenly shouted in alarm as well.

The robed elderly man paid no attention to his audience of officials, rather

looking towards the white-clothed man who was helping him transport qi.

“Third Grandfather, you don’t need to save me any more, I know about my circumstances. The fact that the veins and arteries in my heart are exhausted and breaking down, I already have a general idea!” The robed elderly man faintly exclaimed, bitterly speaking.

The white-clothed man gave a faint sigh: “The veins and arteries in your heart are exhausted and breaking down, Chen Taiji, this time you were too greedy for meritorious deeds and advanced prematurely! Why didn’t you wait for me?”

“I wanted to make an all-out effort, to obtain victory this time for the sect, but I underestimated the Song Kingdom’s military god, Gao Xianzhi! Gao Xianzhi is so powerful; when he was defending Nanjiang, I didn’t know that he would be so powerful, so that my army even celebrated our victory beforehand, singing a song during the entire journey. Who would have thought that the King of Song would have given the authority to lead the army completely to Gao Xianzhi, the army delivered all into his hands, as if by divine intervention or some supernatural force? We had the advantage, but it was completely disassembled by them, their army coming in like the tide and forcing us to make an all-around retreat. The King of Song, he really is something! Cough! Cough!” Chen Taiji coughed as he bitterly spoke.

“I’ve said it to you before, this time the war between the Chen Kingdom and Song Kingdom is beyond the scope of anything you can imagine. The sect backing the Song Kingdom is similar to us, laying down their lives according to orders, to them victory is compulsory. Whoever ends up the victor of the war, the sect that’s been hiding behind them, no matter if turns up to be either us or them, will be able to receive the newly discovered Spirit Stone mine!” The white-clothed man gave a faint sigh as he spoke.

“The grandson earnestly requests his Third Grandfather, please defeat Gao Xianzhi, otherwise, my Chen Kingdom will suffer a crushing defeat, enough to wipe out the kingdom!” Chen Taiji pleaded as he spoke.

The white-clothed man knitted his eyebrows into a concentrated stare as he shook his head: “I’ve said it before, this time the situation is too widespread. Previously it was only for the sake of some Spirit Stone mine, but this time there

is actually an important person who has expressed interest in this, that important person wants to see a profane battle, and thusly has forced us not to get involved with this. Not just me, but also Sect Leader, will not, for the purpose of your secular country, offend that very important person!”

“What? You cannot get involved? Cough! Cough!” Chen Taiji once again coughed out a mouthful of blood.

The white-clothed man assuredly nodded his head: “The sect backing the Song Kingdom, cannot get involved as well, therefore you should not think that the injury was caused by the sect backing the Song Kingdom, it was entirely inflicted by Gao Xianzhi!”

“Cough! Cough! Cough! Cough! Cough!” Chen Taiji once again went into a peal of coughing.

“Report!”

A young soldier rushed into the large tent, bending onto one knee; at seeing the pale emperor cough up a mouthful of blood, his expression immediately went rigid.

“Speak!” Chen Taiji fixed his attention onto the soldier.

“Reporting to the emperor, the Tong Pass has fallen!” The soldier spoke in a panic.

“What? Cough! Cough! Cough!” Chen Taiji once again coughed up blood.

“Report!”

Yet another young soldier rushed into the large tent.

“Reporting to the emperor, the Chenshan Pass has fallen!”

“Report!”

“Reporting to the emperor, the Jiayu Pass has fallen!”

“Cough! Cough! Cough! Cough! Cough!”

Within the large tent silence had fallen, the only remaining noises the sound of government officials urgently gasping for breath and the sound of Chen Taiji’s coughing.

On Chen Taiji's pale face he had unexpectedly coughed so hard there was a smatter of red coloring on his cheeks.

The white-clothed man wrinkled his eyebrows, appearing as if he were witnessing Chen Taiji's last moments, almost on the verge of death.

Within the large tent, a crowd of officials all betrayed expressions of alarm.

"Father, the Tong Pass, the Chenshan Pass, and the Jiayu Pass, these three important locations were lost within the span of one day. What we have lost to the Song Kingdom are all flat plains, three-fourths of the territory in the Chen Kingdom has basically gone to the dogs!" The robed man's expression exposed a frightened appearance.

The white-clothed man faintly sighed as he spoke: "Lost, we still lost, this Gao Xianzhi, really has such great capability. The Chen Kingdom is absolutely hopeless now!"

Chen Taiji's complexion had already swollen into a bright red color: "Using soldiers as if he were a god? Using soldiers as if he were a god, creating a diversion and breaking through the three passes at the same time, breaking apart the moral of our troops, what a good Gao Xinzhi, what a powerful Gao Xinzhi. Cough! Cough! Cough! Cough!"

"Chen Taiji, why don't you let the crown prince succeed to the throne, the Chen Kingdom still has the Hulao Pass, we can hope to defend that for a while. Ah, even if we were to defend it for longer, what is the purpose? This battle, we have lost. It's just that I pity your son, and hope that the Sect Leader will not take his anger on your son!" The expression on the white-clothed man was one that was rarely seen.

"What? Sect Leader's anger?" Chen Taiji restrained his coughs as he looked at the white-clothed man.

The white-clothed man remained silent for a moment, nodding his head as he spoke: "It's possible, I will probably also suffer implications. This war is being watched by a very important person, in the case that the Chen Kingdom loses, the important person will be very disappointed with the sect, and Sect Leader cares very much about the important person's opinion of him. Perhaps, I hope that the Sect Leader will not get too angry, after all the opposite side's military

god is much too strong...!”

Chen Taiji’s body suddenly trembled, his eyes fluctuating rapidly, appearing as if he were making a very difficult decision.

“No, we haven’t lost yet, we still have Hulao Pass, still have Hulao Pass!” Chen Taiji said, trembling.

“Hulao Pass? The number of troops stationed in Hulao Pass are the smallest, furthermore they are all a bunch of imperial guards, compared to the soldiers in the other three passes, they are all just a flock of sheep that have never seen blood before; not only that, but their numbers are very small. In what way can they withstand the tigers and wolves that make up the Song Kingdom’s army? Moreover, you are on the verge of death, and there is a huge discrepancy between your son’s capabilities and yours; even you can’t withstand their attacks, let alone your son? Furthermore, the country is on the verge of forfeiting three-fourths of its territory, a great amount of territory lost, the trust of the people lost, what do you gain from battling against the Song Kingdom? In addition, the opposition is the military god, Gao Xinzhi! The entire country is going to ruin, the condition of it deteriorating day by day, in this manner you can not prevent it from happening!” The white-clothed man slightly sighed as he spoke.

“No, we still haven’t lost!” As Chen Taiji trembled, he revealed a sinister expression as he spoke.

“Just relying on the scattered remnants of this defeated army? Kingdoms will all be destroyed one day, no one can stop it, Taiji, you should instead think of how to beg for forgiveness from the sect!” The white-clothed man bitterly spoke.

“Father, what kind of means do we still have? The sect is not willing to be involved...!” The robed crown prince revealed an agonized expression as he spoke.

Chen Taiji closed his eyes, his entire body shuddering; it was only after a long pause did finally open his mouth to speak: “No, there is still a person, he, he can go against the tide, he surely is able to!”

“Oh?” The white-clothed man faintly stared blankly.

The robed crown prince also revealed an confused expression.

“Crown prince, you must go and plead for him to join us, as long as he is willing to come out of obscurity, as long as he is willing to come out of obscurity, we will be able to win, certainly! Cough! Cough! Cough!” Chen Taiji coughed as he spoke.

“Chen Taiji, this is not a time to joke around, now the Chen Kingdom is practically defeated, who can still turn around the tide? The Song Kingdom has recently become an impregnable force, furthermore they have the military god Gao Xinzhi to sing about on the road, their morale extremely high. Without the sect’s involvement, it’s impossible to change the battle’s situation right now!” The white-clothed man spoke doubtfully.

“It’s possible, he can do it, he can definitely do it!” Chen Taiji’s face was extremely red.

“Who? Father, who is it?” The crown prince asked curiously.

“Gu Hai!” Chen Taiji spat out the name with extreme difficulty, as if it belonged to an exceedingly intolerable person.

“The richest person within the six kingdoms, Mister Gu Lao?” The crown prince asked inquisitively.

“The richest person within the six kingdoms? Cough! Cough! Cough! Gu Hai? Who would have thought, just before death’s door, I once again beg for you to help me!” Chen Taiji exposed a bitter smile as his spoke.

“Gu Hai? Precisely the person who began cultivating after he turned thirty, later on delusionally wanting to pay worship to our sect, that fellow with the extremely bad Gengu?”

“Third Grandfather, you know about him?” Chen Taiji stared, extremely amazed, towards the white-clothed man.

“I’ve met him before, in fact, most of the people in our sect who were in the Jindan territory have met him. Just by staying in this world, that fellow would always be able to quickly find us, bribing us with every means possible, pleading to let him into the sect. However, his Gengu was just too terrible, and additionally his cultivation was very slow, practically making no accomplishments; accepting him, would only cause the other sect members to

ridicule us!" The white-clothed man nodded his head.

"Gu Hai? Ah, I thought that I had prevented any possible opportunities for him to contact the sect, who would have thought that he unexpectedly bypassed me a long time ago. Such an obvious thing, to think I missed it, hehehe, cough! Cough! Cough! Cough!" Chen Taiji coughed up blood, bitterly speaking.

"Chen Taiji, you say that Gu Hai can reverse the flow of things? In what way are you sure? He is only an ordinary person, having just an Houtian cultivation level." The white-clothed man frowned, knitting his eyebrows together as he spoke.

"Yes, Father, he is only a merchant, can he really unify the soldiers and fight in the war?" The crown prince also anxiously spoke.

"He can definitely do that! If Gao Xinzhi is the military god, then he, Gu Hai, is the military god king! Taizi, go bring the government officials with you to plead him! You must convince him!" Chen Taiji revealed a resolute expression within his eyes as he spoke.

"An ordinary person? The military god king?"

"Third Grandfather, please satisfy his requests as much as possible. You are correct that he is a merchant, you are correct that he is an ordinary person, but only he has the capability to turn the tides; if we want to win back the victory, we can only ask him! I guarantee it on the crown prince's life!" The color of Chen Taiji's face had already swollen to a blood-red color.

The white-clothed man looked at Chen Taiji, knitting his brows with contemplation. Originally it had already been impossible to save the situation, but Chen Taiji's stubbornly insisted that Gu Hai would be able to reverse the situation; besides, Chen Taiji's expression was not deceitful. The white-clothed man gradually became solemn. After all, this time the battle between the two kingdoms had too many great implications, there was no time to idle for any details.

"I will, Sect Leader this time gave me the privilege to get away with some things. As long as it is not excessive, I will satisfy him to the fullest extent." The white-clothed man solemnly spoke.

“Crown Prince, after you convince Gu Hai to take the leading position, if you want to reverse the tides, you have to obey everything that he arranges, remember, every arrangement. Also, address him as Uncle Gu! He used to be the your father’s sworn elder brother! Cough! Cough!” Chen Taiji weakly, almost agonizingly, spoke.

“Uncle Gu?” The crown prince revealed an astonished appearance.

“Finally, on behalf of myself give him an apology, that year it was I that wronged him!” Chen Taiji exposed a trace of distressing pain.

After he had finished his last sentence, Chen Taiji closed his eyes, his red face fading in a split second, returning to a pale color, ceasing to have even a trace of a sound.

“Father!”

“Emperor!”

“The Emperor has died!”

Both outside and within the large tent, everybody immediately fell to their knees. Everybody, without exception, endlessly called out cries of grief.

Everlasting Immortal Firmament - Chapter 2

Gu Hai

On 14th day of the 6th month, at the Great Chen Empire within Hulao Pass was Old Town. This town held a single mansion, named “Gu Mansion”.

Accompanying the inside of Gu Mansion, the street around it were also full of sumptuous feasts and a constant stream of guests were bustling about!

But at this occasion, a team of people garbed in mourning clothes arrived as the originally noisy and joyous feast abruptly halted. In all four directions, a large number of army soldiers stood making the original festive scene, in the blink of an eye, turn into a freezing cold atmosphere.

“Is it not Mister Gu’s 70th birthday today? Why have these soldiers surrounded us, they are capable of attacking at a moment’s notice, ah, how are these so many troops?”

“No, No. Mister Gu is simply not involved in politics. Not a single official would dare find fault with Mister Gu!”

“Wait, just then.... That was the Crown Prince! The Crown Prince was wearing mourning clothes and he was followed by all the civil and military officials!”

“How can this be?”

“It’s true. That was really the Crown Prince... and the Crown Prince was wearing mourning clothes?....Is can’t be....!”

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Suddenly, a horrified expression was revealed on the face of all the guests on the street roads.

The Crown Prince wears the mourning clothes only once. Does that mean... the current Sovereign is dead?

Wasn't the current Sovereign fighting in the front lines against the foreigners? Moreover, I heard that he was victorious in battles again and again!

Suddenly the guests on the street roads all had a shocked countenance with horrified expressions.

Everyone's face became pale, as apparently, there was too much of a delay in their information network.

At the Gu Mansion!

Most of the guests in the front courtyard and street roads were enjoying the splendid feast, but in the backyard it was rather quiet. Here, there was a tower that was seven stories tall. In the Gu Mansion, no, even in the whole town it was the tallest building. One could oversee the entire town just by standing at the top of the tower.

This tower was named the Soaring Heaven Tower!

Next to the Soaring Heavens Tower, there was large group of people from the Gu Mansion solemnly standing there, watching the group of civil and military officials, along with Crown Prince Chen, bowing towards the Soaring Heaven Tower. Immense grief was clearly visible on their faces.

Among them, there was only one person who did not kneel. That was Chen Taichi's third grandfather who was also the sect's white robed man.

"Nephew Chen Lianyi seeks an audience with Uncle Gu and requests Uncle Gu to avenge Father Emperor!" exclaimed the Crown Prince Chen Lianyi while his face revealed an expression full of mourning.

The Chen Empire was on the path of utter destruction and the Crown Prince did not know how long he could keep the throne. The day that the Chen Empire is destroyed, even if he survived, he may have to face the Immortal Sect's wrath and he didn't know whether he will live or die. Father Emperor had said this

person was able to turn the raging tides against them, and that he is also Father Emperor's sworn elder brother.

Chen Lianyi would not even frown at kneeling and would even kneel three days and nights just to save the Chen Empire.

The people of the Gu Mansion, and many of their servants were staring with completely open eyes.

This, is the current Crown Prince! Also aren't these the civil and military officials? How could it be? They came here just to see the lord?

"Gu Hai, I'm the Clear River Sect's Chen Tianshan, do you still remember me? Crown Prince Chen along with all the civil and military officials are kneeling in front of you, what do you want!" shouted the white robed man while standing.

All of the Gu Mansion's people who were watching felt their eyebrows twitch. Led by a thirty or so year old middle-aged man wearing azure gown, with an ordinary appearance, he stood beside the Soaring Heaven Tower, as if all the Gu Mansion's people were led by him.

"Great Young Master? You must not.....!" said one servant, as if wanted to say something.

The middle aged man garbed in azure robes coldly looked past him, and with one look with his eyes, it suddenly scared the servant into silence.

The Gu Mansion prestige could not be provoked.

The great young master wearing azure gown didn't bother to pay any attention to everyone who came to see Gu Hai, but patiently guarded the outside of the Soaring Heaven Tower.

"Uncle Gu, before Father Emperor died, he made this nephew seek Uncle Gu. In addition to this Father Emperor asked me to say on his behalf that, in those days Father Emperor was wrong, and is extremely sorry!" said Chen Tianyi while weeping, while at the same time his whole body trembled.

"Oh~~~~~."

From inside the Soaring Heaven Tower, came a distant sighing sound.

Everyone's expression stirred.

Once again from the Soaring Heaven Tower came a sound from an old man, “Immortal Chen Expert, during your visit, this old man has neglected you. Gu Qin, welcome the Immortal Chen Expert inside the tower, and also, allow Chen Lianyi to come up!”

The Great Young Master Gu Qin guarding the entrance of the Soaring Heaven Tower, suddenly with a respected look, said, “Yes, foster father!”

“Kuang!”

Gu Qin, who now opened the tower door, faced Chen Tianshan and said, “Immortal Chen Expert was neglected, my father has not seen a guest for a long time, and has offended you many times today. Come in please!”

Chen Tianshan nodded his head.

“Crown Prince Chen, please come in as well!” Gu Qin respectfully said.

Chen Lianyi, with a sliver of excitement, climbed up right away.

Gu Qin lead Chen Tianshan and Chen Lianyi into Soaring Heaven Tower!

“Kuang!”

The tower gate once again was closed and started to rise up.

Tower have seven floors, both discovered that each floor is full of bookshelves, filled with countless books.

At the sixth floor.

Chen Tianshan, Chen Lianyi finally saw Gu Hai.

In front of the window of that Soaring Heaven Tower, at this moment a visible huge Weiqi board was placed, but it was different from the usual Weiqi board. Above a normal Weiqi board there are 19 horizontal and vertical lines, but, above this Weiqi board there are 29 vertical and horizontal lines.

The Weiqi board was filled with pieces, but even the layout of the Weiqi board was not clearly visible.

The Weiqi board aside, an old man garbed in black robes stood, and he looked about seventy years old, with snow white hair, and an extremely serious face. Although some wrinkles were present, but both of his eyes were very bright, and

it seemed as if it could easily see the heart of the people, making Chen Lianyi, in his heart, a little afraid.

This is the richest man in all six empires, Gu Hai?

“You are Gu Hai? No you’re not Gu Hai! Your eyebrows.....?” Chen Tianshan’s eyes were staring at him.

However, the old man smiled slightly and said, “Immortal Chen Expert remembers me pleading next to the waterfall? Indeed this old man is Gu Hai. At that time just to avoid some unnecessary troubles, I grew a beard and drew the eyebrows!”

Chen Tianshan looked at him closely, and indeed he was Gu Hai, but the most memorable part of that time, was actually false? Nevertheless this person was the same man, and there was not that large of a difference between the current and the previous look, however because it was Gu Hai how was posing, Chen Tianshan was absolutely sure if Gu Hai hadn’t mentioned it before before he would’ve thought he hadn’t seen Gu Hai.

“Uncle Gu, my father is dead. He said you are his sworn great brother, and earnestly requested Uncle Gu, to consider the mutual affection between sworn brothers, and take revenge for my father!” Chen Lianyi once again knelt.

Gu Hai’s eyes squinted a little looking at Chen Lianyi, after a moment of silence said, “In those days he and I were sworn brothers, but then he also wanted to kill me, so you cannot count on the pretended mutual affection between brothers!”

“Ah?” Chen Lianyi complexion became stiff.

Chen Tianshan brows were slightly wrinkled.

Gu Hai looking at Chen Tianshan said, “I know why have you come to me. The three passes have fallen, and Gao Xianzhi has also killed the 600000 soldiers of all three passes. It doesn’t matter whether the high officials or lowly commoners are all united, the Chen Empire soon will be destroyed. At this moment, they have left behind 100000 inferior and conflicted soldiers, and you want to block the Song Empire’s Tiger Wolf Army of 800000 soldiers, you’re saying this is possible?”

“What? Gao Xianzhi has killed 600000 soldiers? They’re only prisoners!” Chen

Lianyi exclaimed.

“It was done just before four days at noon!” Gu Hai calmly said.

“You, how do you know this?” Chen Lianyi exclaimed.

However, Gu Hai said nothing.

On the other hand, Great Young Master Gu Qin however was acting as an attendant on one side, and respectfully poured a cup of tea to Gu Hai, then once again poured a cup to Chen Tianshan.

Gu Hai slightly gestured to Chen Tianshan, and sat himself down.

Chen Tianshan took a look at Gu Hai, his eyes had a strange expression, normally when an ordinary mortal saw a person from the Immortal Sect, all of them would be respectful to the Immortal, but to his surprise Gu Hai was so insipid?

“Chen Taichi said, if it’s you, it is possible!” Chen Tianshan sat down and said in a heavy tone.

Gu Hai reached out for the teacup, took a sip: “Mountain and rivers are destroyed, just in half month, Gao Xianzhi army next will directly push deep and will arrive at Hulao Pass, Hulao Pass have only 100000 soldiers, about this stuff you are more cleared than me, with these people you want to resist 800000 soldiers of Tiger Wolf Army? Oh, not to mention during the resistance, these group of people will defect as soon as possible, and perhaps Gao Xianzhi will not even have to take any actions, and Hulao Pass will be broken on its own!”

Chen Tianshan and Chen Lianyi’s complexion changed, as Gu Hai didn’t even need to alert them, because it was very likely to happen.

“Uncle Gu, I beg you to come out and just rescue the Chen Empire, you should be able to do something!” Chen Lianyi suddenly cried.

On the other hand Chen Tianshan also with affirmation on his face said, “Correct! Do you have any method for this to be possible?”

However, Gu Hai eyes suddenly squinted, said, “Oh? Since the Immortal Sect is caring for the Great Chen Empire in such a way, why doesn’t Immortal Chen Expert personally act? I think with your strength taking the head of the general

inside the army should not be that difficult. Moreover, your Immortal Sect, among the secular empires, will not control just this one Great Chen Empire, why not make the other empires to aid Chen Empire? Instead why come to me, this old man whose entire body stinks of money?”

Chen Tianshan wrinkled his brows, after a moment of silence said, “This is a war between only two countries, and does not allow the other empires nor the sect’s people to intervene and aid them!”

“Is not allowed?” Gu Hai complexion suddenly changed, and in his eyes there was a sliver of a glint.

Although he only heard these words Gu Hai, on the other hand, in the blink of an eye, heard a lot of information, and it was as if he had seen one big opportunity. It was to the point that his heart was like an ancient well where there wasn’t a single ripple but at this time suddenly a ripple appeared.

Suppressing that single ripple, Gu Hai drank some tea.

“The situation the Chen Empire is in is already hopeless. Nevertheless, I’ll still ask, but if you cannot, then that’s the end of it!” said Chen Tianshan heavily.

Gu Hai didn’t speak, but took a glance at Chen Tianshan and Chen Lianyi.

After a while, Gu Hai solemnly said, “Saving the Chen Empire, it’s possible but.....!”

“You can save Chen Empire? How will you save?” Chen Tianshan showed a trace of surprisement.

“I have one condition!” Gu Hai solemnly said but didn’t give any further explanations.

“Oh?” Chen Tianshan looked towards Gu Hai.

“Uncle Gu, what do you want, as long it’s something I have, I can give it to you!” said Chen Lianyi, who got up due to the pleasant surprise got u.

Gu Hai didn’t paid any attention to Chen Lianyi, but stared at Chen Tianshan and said, “I need, Clear River Sect’s Chief to empower me, and completely help me to breakthrough the Houtian Stage barrier! Attack the Xiantian Stage! Furthermore, also let me learn a Xiantian Stage exercise of the Clear River Sect.”

“What? You are at the Houtian Completion Stage?” Chen Tianshan suddenly stood up due to surprise.

Gu Hai solemnly nodded his head.

“Impossible, with your skeletal root, at that time I’ve seen it, you simply cannot cultivate using Internal Strength(内功). With such a poor skeletal root, and starting after 30 years, even cultivating External Strength(外功) for one lifetime, you would be unlikely to exceed the 5th level of the Houtian Stage and you say you’re at the 10th level of the Houtian Stage. That is absolutely impossible!” Chen Tianshan suddenly cried out.

“External Strength? What others cannot do, does not mean that this old man cannot. Houtian Stage cultivators lifespan is only 100 years, and once they reach Xiantian Stage, their lifespan is 200 hundred years, this old man is past his prime age, if I do not breakthrough Xiantian Stage, External Strength in my body is about to disseminate, well, I’ve already reached houtian complete Stage, even you at Jindan Stage isn’t enough to help me, only if it is your sect chief then it is possible, you go talk to your sect chief, as long as he agrees to my terms, I would save Chen!” Gu Hai heavily said.

Chen Tianshan stared at Gu Hai with an unbelievable look and his eyes were filled with surprise.

External Strength? How ridiculous, using External Strength to cultivate up to complete Stage of Houtian? This vulgar cultivating method, relies entirely on masochistic talent, and even if one exhausts their entire potential, they could not exceed the 5th level of Houtian Stage. Ah, it has never been seen before. This Gu Hai had actually reached Houtian Completion Stage?

“I only have this requirement! How is it?” said Gu Hai while staring at Chen Tianshan, and there was a sliver of expectation in his eyes.

“You first save the Chen Empire, then I’ll talk to the sect chief!” Chen Tianshan heavily said.

However Gu Hai slightly smiled, shook his head. Didn’t speak, simply looked at Chen Tianshan.

“Sect Chief is simply not here, how can I promise sect chief’s help? You first

save Chen Empire, I will go and report it sect chief!" Chen Tianshan heavily said.

"There is at least two weeks before Gao Xianzhi's army arrives at Hulao Pass, and two weeks is enough time for you to go back to sect and come back, and as long as your Clear River Sect's Chief promises this one thing, I'll instantly save the Chen Empire. However, after saving the Chen Empire, the kept promise should not be delayed, but I want your sect's chief's approval on the agreement!" said Gu Hai in a firm voice while staring at Chen Tianshan.

"Two weeks? Many things could happen in these two weeks, and perhaps we might lose Hulao Pass! At that time you'll come and save what Chen Empire? Moreover, after two weeks, we'll be under Song Empire's Tiger Wolf Army of 800000 soldiers, and with just 200000 inferior soldiers how are we going to resist?" said Chen Tianshan unhappily with a frown.

"Two weeks? Rest assured, fall apart or not, how to defend, that's my thing, you return a day early, Chen Empire is a day earlier away from danger!" said Gu Hai with a sliver of determination in his eyes. If the promise had not been confirmed, then Gu Hai would've not taken the risk.

Chen Tianshan staring at Gu Hai, with coldness surging in his eyes said, "Gu Hai, this is what you said, and if you cannot save the Chen Empire. If you deceive us you know the consequences.....!"

Gu Hai didn't paid any attention to Chen Tianshan, turned around to see Chen Lianyi, and said, "As Chen Taichi is dead, that's the end of those past grievances, and although I live in the Chen Empire, every year I also paid a large amount of taxes to the Chen Empire. I'm also subjected to Chen Empire's shelter. Today in the six empires, as long as I want to migrate, regardless of which countries will favourably greet me, I can go. The reason all these year I stayed in Chen Empire was only because I was not willing to give up some worries. Between you and me there is no grudge, and I also do not owe you anything. If you want me to save Chen Empire, then you will have to wait for Immortal Chen Expert's news!"

"Yes, many thanks Uncle Gu!" Chen Lianyi suddenly respectfully said.

"First go back, today there are many guests in my mansion, that have not been served!" said Gu Hai while sending him out.

"Yes!" Chen Lianyi nodded his head.

Chen Tianshan stared at Gu Hai for a moment: “I’ll at once return to the sect, and request Sect Chief’s approval. I hope what you say is true, otherwise.....Humph!”

Turning around, Chen Tianshan with Chen Lianyi quickly left.

Nearby Gu Qi looked at Gu Hai, with a slight frown said, “Foster father, currently for the Chen Empire there is almost no solution, how can you save the,? Aren’t you.....!”

However Gu Hai once again looked at the Weiqi on the table, and after taking a deep breath said, “I know there is no solution, and listening to their tone, no sects are allowed to intervene, and only allowed secular world power to fight. It is tantamount to the saying, ‘a wounded baby fighting fiercely in vain’, but this is also this father’s last opportunity. The Houtian Stage and the Xiantian Stage is only separated by a border, however this separation is tantamount to heaven and earth overturning. If I enter the Xiantian Stage I will return to prime of my life! I only have this one opportunity to become young! Therefore, this great trouble must be dispelled!”

“Yes!” Gu Qin with some concern nodded his head.

“I’ll think of some countermeasures, so do not bother me, and leave!” Gu Hai heavily said.

“Foster father, today is your birthday, you want or not want to.....!”

“No, just a moment ago I’ve received the best birthday gift, so go.....!” Gu Hai waved his hand, gesturing him to leave.

Gu Qin nodded his head, then left.

Gu Hai leant against the window, watching below the army withdrawing. Playing with a black Weiqi piece in his hand, his brow knitted together: “On my 30th birthday, I collected 100000 endgame puzzles, and inside the library I stumbled upon this ‘Black Piece’. In a flash, forty years have passed, and you in the end posses what confidential secret? Is it simply just for those 100000 endgame puzzles? I studied and tried to understand them for tens of years, and I also studied and understood most of them, but in these years, you however didn’t move a single bit, how do you want me to understand you?

Gu Hai slightly sighed, stretching out his hand that was holding the black piece and placed it in between the eyebrows.

“Weng!”

To his surprise that black piece strangely penetrated the skin, and drilled in between Gu Hai’s eyebrows.

After entering in between the eyebrows it sunk into Gu Hai’s brain, and in that space between his eyebrows, in his brain, there was a space in which there were 100000 Weiqi boards, and one by one endgames were placed inside the space. These 100000 endgames were seeming to be constantly operating, pieces constantly changing inside, and this ‘Black Piece’ floated over the 100000 endgames, as if it was a king overlooking all 100000 endgames.

TLN NOTES:

1. **Neigong or Internal Strength**, also spelled nei kung, neigung, or nae gong, refers to any of a set of Chinese breathing, meditation and spiritual practice disciplines associated with Daoism and especially the Chinese martial arts. **Neigong or Internal Strength** practice is normally associated with the so-called “soft style”, “internal” or neijia 內家 Chinese martial arts, as opposed to the category known as **Waigong or External Strength** 外功 or “external skill” which is historically associated with shaolinqun or the so-called “hard style”, “external” or wàijiā 外家 Chinese martial arts. Both have many different schools, disciplines and practices and historically there has been mutual influence between the two and distinguishing precisely between them differs from school to school.

2. **Weiqi**: Weiqi is is is an abstract strategy board game for two players, it’s very much look like a checkerboard, it has black and white pieces and you capture a or many pieces by surrounding with pieces of opposite color. In japan it is called Go, in korean Baduk. More you can learn here. A standard Weiqi board have 19 checkered lines (19 horizontal and vertical lines).

(Also for context western chess has 18 lines including the outside ones)

3. **Endgame (puzzles)**: In chess and chess-like games, the **endgame** (or **end**

game ending) is the stage of the game when few pieces are left on the board.

4. **Some information about Dantian:** According to Scriptures Of Numinous Treasure, human beings have three treasure, namely three dantian placed in three inch below the navel, in heart and in brain. Called lower dantian, middle dantian and upper dantian respectively. These three loci in the human body play a major role in breathing, meditation, and Neidan (Internal Alchemy) practices.

The lower dantian proper and is the seat of essence (jing). Different sources place it at 1.3, 2, 2.4, 3, or 3.6 inches (cun) below or behind the navel, and consider it to be the same as, or closely related to, other loci in the same region of the body: the Gate of the Existence (mingmen), the Origin of the Barrier (guanyuan), and the Ocean of Breath (qihai).

The middle dantian is at the center of the chest according to some authors, or between the heart and the navel according to others. It is the seat of breath (or “energy”, qi) and is also called Yellow Court (huangting), Crimson Palace (jiangong), or Mysterious Female (xuanpin, an emblem of the conjunction of Yin and Yang).

The upper Field is located in the region of the brain and is the seat of spirit (shen). Also known as Muddy Pellet (niwan) or Palace of Qian (qiangong, with reference to the trigram representing Pure Yang). As regards to upper dantian, one inch between the eyebrows towards the back of the head, there is Hall Of Light, an inch further lies Grotto Chamber, yet an inch further reveals the Niwan palace. All these lie along one line towards the back of head.

Everlasting Immortal Firmament - Chapter 3

Back to the Days of Dispute

A mountain range at outskirts of the Chen Empire, this mountain range is the location of Clear River Sect, inside a Clear River Sect is located a seemingly large hall!

Within this hall there were more than 20 people, and as different as the waters of the Jinghe and the Weihe, they were divided into three clear factions.

[TLN: Jinghe or Jing river and Weihe or Wei river two rivers of China, Jing is tributary of Wei which in turn tributary of Yellow river, Jing and Wei waters, one is clear while the other is muddy, even though they converge but their water are clearly divided, it is metaphor to understand right and wrong.]

On the left, a small group of people were garbed in azure robes. This group was led by a middle-aged man. Everyone in the group was looking at a giant map in the center of the hall with tightly knit eyebrows. Anger was flashing in their eyes while looking at the map.

The group on the right was garbed in white robes, and at this moment they were very happy. The leader of this group suddenly said with smile, "Clear River Sect Chief, it seems you have lost this battle. The Great Chen Empire has lost three of its passes, and they are in an extremely vulnerable state, Hahahahaha!"

The people in group garbed in white robes burst out into loud laughter.

However, the people in the left group were glaring angrily at the other group. Their leader, the Clear River Sect's Chief, clenched his hands into fists and said, "Song First Sect's Chief, this is not necessarily the end of everything. Are you certain that Chen Empire will be defeated?"

Song First Sect's Chief, who was wearing white robes, sneered and said, "How?

On this maps you can see all the troops as they are stationed on the battlefield, and at this moment in the Song Empire, whether it be high officials or lowly commoners, they are all united. Their momentum is like a hot knife going through butter. Gao Xianzhi has killed 600,000 soldiers of the Chen Army, and only 100,000 soldiers are left at Hulao Pass. Even if the soldiers were to be led by an inferior general, there would be simply no suspense. Not to mention, the troops are being led by a skilled and clever general, Gao Xianzhi! There is no need for you to resist, simply surrender as soon as possible!”

“You!” Clear River Sect’s Chief’s stared daggers at him.

Once again, everyone stupidly watched and realized that, in this battle, the Chen Empire is right on its way to destruction.

But the Clear River Sect’s Chief was extremely unwilling! It was not about losing an empire, but was about the extremely great character that is standing beside him. He has also been concerned about the battlefield, with him losing so badly in front of the VIP, it would create an incompetent impression in VIP’s heart, how can the Clear River Sect’s Chief not fret over this?

When the two Sect Chiefs were bickering, an additional five other people have also been concerned about it.

Although this is Clear River Sect, these five people were standing on the north side.

They were led by a girl wearing a black robe, dressed in men’s clothing.

That girl, who could be described as a peerless beauty, had extremely slender legs and was nervously yet enthusiastically looking at the map. A quite well-proportioned body, revealed a snow white slender neck, under the contrast of black robe making it even more dazzling. One would wish to go up and take a bite, her hair combed like a man, but beside the face on the forehead a wisp of hair fell, adding even more to the charm. Although she was dressed as man, it still could not conceal her peerless appearance. Maybe because of wearing men’s clothes, it would add even more wisps of temptation.

The two sect’s disciples were also watching the girl very covertly, but they all understood the girl’s identity and immediately suppressed their slightly throbbing heart.

The girl was holding a folding fan in her hand, and carefully watched the huge map in front of her eyes. On the map there were various kinds of tags, each carefully describing every bit of detail on the battlefield between the Song Empire and Chen Empire, regardless of their importance.

Four people stood behind the girl, and out of these four three of them had no expressions on their faces. They were similar to bodyguards, not saying a word, but there was one exception. It was a bald buddhist monk wearing blue white robes, and just by standing there he gave off a mundane atmosphere. He had an extremely handsome and scholarly face, and in his hands were buddhist praying beads made up of 18 tiny beads tied by a string. Together with the girl, he was watching the auxiliary map.

“Grandmaster Liunian, what do you think about this battle?” The girl looking at map patted the folding fan on the palm of her other hand and asked with a smile.

“Hall Lord, just because you wanted to see a war between the secular world, it became the cause of thoughtless slaughter. 600,000 soldiers were needlessly killed, Amitayus Buddha!” The bald buddhist monk read the buddha chant, as if the killing of these soldiers had caused him to sigh.

“Grandmaster, I heard that before you became a monk, you have also killed a lot of people. And comparing those killing with these is like a drop in the ocean. Besides, I have not ordered anyone to start the battle or kill anyone, the battle was already happening when we came. This sin of killing is not due to me, but is due to them killing each other! I’m the cause, but not the effect!” said the girl while shaking her head.

Grandmaster Liunian slightly smiled bitterly and said, “That is water under the bridge!”

“My grandfather had told be that if there is an opportunity, I should take a look at mortal warfare. Although they are not stronger, sometimes they have a lot of wisdom. This battle is very amazing, Grandmaster, what do you say?” said the girl with a smile.

Grandmaster Liunian looked at the map, nodded his head and said, “That Chen Taichi is also not that bad. In such a big battle, he is actually able to manipulate

events with ease. Even by our standards, he can also be considered a pretty good general. He was playing safe, extremely safe.

The Chen Empire will still most likely be one sidedly defeated by the Song Empire, however I had not thought that Gao Xianzhi from Song Empire would be the one to act!”

The girl nodded her head and said, “Yes, this Gao Xianzhi is indeed formidable!”

“Gao Xianzhi is known as the God of War of the Song Empire, however he is worthy of that name, his command of troops is even more formidable than Chen Taichi. In all fighting, the direct method may be used for joining the battle, but indirect methods will be needed in order to secure victory! In these short few months, he had changed his schemes again and again, commanded troops like they were directed by a god, even before advancing he anticipated the enemy’s strength. This is even more extraordinary, and he also took risks a few times, but also made remarkable achievements, of defeating Chen Taichi. Actually it was a psychological warfare, but in the end he also used diversion, and eventually destroyed the three passes. Indescribable!”

[TLN: 以正合, 以奇胜 (Art of war by Sun Tzu): In all fighting, the direct method may be used for joining battle, but indirect methods will be needed in order to secure victory]

“This Gao Xianzhi is certainly a little interesting. What level do you think this Gao Xianzhi is commanding skills are at?” said the girl looking at Grandmaster Liunian.

“Hall Lord is intelligent, presumably you had already guessed long ago, so why ask me?” Grandmaster Liunian smiled and said.

“Although there are not many techniques, but every time he has commanded his troops they were nothing but experts blows, incomparably precise and subtle, so he should be a General level material!” said the girl with a respectful countenance.

“Hall Lord’s view and mine are same!” Grandmaster Liunian nodded his head.

“It seems that this trip is not without harvest, and we at least encountered one

genius!” The girl said with a satisfied smile.

However this appreciation made by the girl made the Song First Sect’s Chief eyelid jump.

“Hall Lord, this Gao Xianzhi is just one mortal! He is only at the Houtian Stage!” Song First Sect’s Chief suddenly said with impatience.

Girl calmly glanced at Song First Sect’s Chief and said, “Do not worry, he is not counted in your quota!”

What the girl cared about was the person’s talent, not their power level, as power level can gradually be elevated, the intelligence of a person is limited and even if it can be increased, it cannot be increased by that much. How could the girl allow such a talented person to be covered in dust?

“Grandmaster Liunian, you see this Chen Empire, is it also capable of counterattacking?” ASKed the girl while looking at the map.

Grandmaster Liunian, after a moment of silence, shook his head: “Neither sect or other countries are participating. The Chen Empire is already at a dead end, three passes have fallen. Moreover after the three passes it is followed by a boundless plain, and not to mention the fact that everyone, whether they are higher officials or lowly commoners, in the Song Empire are united. Hundreds of thousands of soldiers will converge outside the Hulao Pass, and although Hulao Pass does have 100,000 soldiers, but they have never seen blood. Moreover, don’t even talk about resisting, at the appointed time not flattering and surrendering to the enemy is already considered pretty good. In addition to this, some information came from before that Chen Taichi is seriously injured, his heart veins have directly been damaged, which is also beyond their grasp. After another half month, Gao Xianzhi will be able to siege and the Chen Empire will then become history!”

Grandmaster Liunian hammered the last nail in the coffin lid, and now Song First Sect’s Chief’s face was brimming with happiness, however, Clear River Sect’s Chief’s complexion was that of sadness.

The girls also nodded her head, the Chen Empire is already not able to turn the tide.

“Sect Chief!” Suddenly, an anxious shout came from outside the large hall.

“Phew!”

However this was Chen Tianshan who rushed back from Gu Mansion.

“Tianshan?” Clear River Sect’s Chief’s expression sank.

Previously he made Chen Tianshan leave to go to the Chen Empire, as he just wanted him to secretly help the Chen Empire from behind the scenes, because he didn’t want to lose, but now seeing Chen Tianshan arriving here, Clear River Sect’s Chief was showing a sliver of anger.

Chen Tianshan entered inside the large hall, and was suddenly surprised for a moment, as apparently he had not thought that there will be so many people present; there is a group of people from Song First Sect, as well as that VIP.

“Clear River Sect’s, Chen Tianshan has seen Hall Lord!” Chen Tianshan respectfully said.

That girl just nodded her head, but did not respond.

“Tianshan, at this time why did you come back? Is Chen Taichi all right? How are his injuries?” Clear River Sect’s Chief heavily asked.

Chen Tianshan was slightly anguished and said, “My nephew died half a month ago, all of his heart veins had been shattered and were beyond repair!”

Clear River Sect’s Chief complexion immediately sank.

“Ha ha ha ha ha, Chen Taichi is dead, Chen Empire is now completely hopeless, Clear River Sect’s Chief, you should make them admit defeat on their own!” said Song First Sect’s Chief with a loud laugh.

Clear River Sect’s Chief’s complexion immediately turned ugly

Black robe girl’s eyebrows also slightly wrinkled. Just a moment ago they were still thinking about Chen Taichi not being able to turn the tide, and now Chen Taichi was dead, this battle between the two countries is already a forgone conclusion, and soon will come to an end.

“Hall Lord, this time I brought shame to the Clear River Sect!” Clear River Sect’s Chief painstakingly faced the girl and slightly bowed.

Now the last trace of hope was also lost.

Before the girl could say anything, Chen Tianshan right away anxiously said, "Sect Chief, we have not lost yet, there is still an opportunity to win!"

"Hahahaha, Chen Tianshan? What is it you said a moment ago. All of this, and you can still win?" Song First Sect's Chief suddenly said with a loud laugh as if he didn't believe him.

"Tianshan, you shut up! Is the shame still not enough for you?" Clear River Sect's Chief scolded loudly.

"Disciple came here just for this matter. We can still win!" Chen Tianshan bit the bullet and affirmatively said.

"Oh?" The black robed girl showed a sliver of curiosity.

Anyone with discerning eye will know Chen Empire is finished in this battle, but this human suddenly came here and indulged everyone with wild fantasies

"Humph, good, Chen Tianshan, speak, how can we win?" Clear River Sect's Chief coldly said.

He already lost to Song First Sect, and had already lost too much face, however Chen Tianshan did not know the repercussions and boasted that they could still turn the tide.

Now Chen Tianshan could only bite the bullet and speak, "Sect Chief, my nephew Chen Taichi recommended to me one person before dying, and said that this person will certainly be able to turn the tide. It will be just like the Song Empire releasing Gao Xianzhi at that time."

"Oh? Like Gao Xianzhi?" Hearing this got the girl into high spirits.

"How can he be that similar? Song Empire has barely revealed the shadow of defeat. When our strength was at its peak was Gao Xianzhi able to advance like a hot knife through butter, but now the Chen Empire is already finished, with its strength greatly reduced, and you say we can still make a comeback? Cooking a meal without rice, how is that possible? This also something you believe?" Clear River Sect's Chief didn't believe a bit.

However the girl slightly smiled and said, "Tell me, who is it!"

When the girl was speaking, Clear River Sect Chief also naturally didn't try to stop him, and just kept staring at Chen Tianshan.

Chen Tianshan was also feeling the agony, but he could only bite the bullet: "When Chen Taichi died, he nominated this person, and said that this person was certainly capable of turning the tide. I'm pretty sure that he was speaking the truth, as when he was speaking from his posture I didn't see any kind of fabrication, and as soon as possible Crown Prince Chen went to find that person, who is called Gu Hai. He is someone who presumably all senior brothers seated here have seen."

"Gu Hai? That old man whose entire body stinks of money?"

"Is it him? That person with the poor skeletal root and still had the wishful thinking to be added into my clan?"

"He began cultivating at the age of thirty and still dared to have these delusions. Only in the next life!"

.....

.....

.....

Everyone suddenly responded, Chen Tianshan was surprised to find that not only his Clear River Sect's senior and junior brothers knew him, but also all the people behind Song First Sect's Chief knew Gu Hai.

"Oh? He is willing to help Chen Empire?" However the girl curiously asked.

When the girl spoke, everyone suddenly quieted down.

Chen Tianshan bitterly smiled and said, "No, he said he'll help the Chen Empire win, and it may be possible! But, he needed the Sect Chief's undertaking, and after he helps the Chen Empire turn the tide, the Sect Chief must help him go from the Houtian Completion Stage and impact the Xiantian Stage! Moreover we must also allow him to learn the Clear River Sect's Xiantian Stage Exercise!"

"What? He is at the Houtian Completion Stage?" Everyone in the large hall suddenly said with surprise.

However the girl was somewhat confused, and with a somewhat bewildered

appearance she looked at Chen Tianshan.

“Hall Lord, this guy called Gu Hai, we don’t have any prior information of him before 40 years ago, but out of the blue, we don’t know where he came out from, and at that time he hadn’t even started his cultivation, was just an ordinary mortal. Moreover he started cultivating at the age of 30, furthermore he strangely also had an extremely poor skeletal root, as such that it was not suitable for cultivating using Internal Strength. So he instead chose to cultivate using External Strength, and painstakingly refined his body. He wanted to waltz into my and others sects, so naturally everyone despised him. Nevertheless, in just 40 years in the secular world he had opened many promising large industries, and became the richest man in all six empires, moreover, he also reached the Houtian Completion Stage!” Chen Tianshan explained.

“He cultivated up to the Houtian Completion Stage using External Strength? He must have a very strong determination!” Grandmaster Liunian showed a sliver of surprise.

“External Strength cultivation, but also to the Houtian Completion Stage?” the girl looked at Grandmaster Liunian.

Grandmaster Liunian nodded his head and said, “It’s very rare, at least, this is only the second time I’ve heard of it!”

“Second? Who was the first?” the girl asked with uncertainty.

“Your Grandfather!” said Grandmaster Liunian.

Weng!

However the girl’s pupil contracted and all the people present became serious.

“Sect Chief, Gu Hai said, as long as you promise he will help the Chen Empire in turning the tide, however he needs your promise!” said Chen Tianshan.

“Wishful thinking, one Houtian Stage old man also thinks he can turn the tide? A fool’s dream!” said Song First Sect’s Chief with an unbelievable look.

Clear River Sect’s Chief took a glance at the girl, but seeing the girl showing a trace of curiosity, his already lost heart once again started to beat with excitement. He had already lost a big deal of face, and if he loses face once

again... but maybe...?

“Good! I promise!” Clear River Sect’s Chief solemnly said.

“Yes, many thanks Sect Chief!” said Chen Tianshan excitedly.

Nearby the girl slapped the folding fan in her hand, and said, “Since it is this way, then we can only see what he will do!”

“Hall Lord, it might be too late!” Grandmaster Liunian said with some worry.

“There’s no harm. I also wish to take a look at this Gu Hai and what he is relying on to boast like this!” the girl smilingly said.

“But.....!” Grandmaster Liunian slightly frowned.

“I know it is almost a forgone conclusion, however, didn’t you discover, everything now became more interesting?” said the girl while smiling.

“All right!” Grandmaster Liunian said with a bitter smile.

Everlasting Immortal Firmament - Chapter 4

Gu Hai's Marvelous Tales

At the Song Empire's royal capital city, Song City! There was one remote mansion in Song City, that was named the Tian Mansion.

The main meeting hall of the Tian Mansion was brightly lit late at night.

Inside the large hall there were only two people, one of which was the recently seen Gu Hai of the Gu Mansion.

Gu Hai's body was looking fatigued from the journey, as if he had marched a very long road. However the only difference was that his previous snow white hair was now of an ebony color. Not a single white strand was seen.

The other was a man wearing a yellow robe, seemingly about 30 years old, with a square face and large forehead, both of his eyes were bright and penetrating.

"Foster father, you came so quickly!" the yellow robed man handed a hot towel to Gu Hai and said with a smile.

Gu Hai took the towel and lightly wiped his face and his hands, then handed it back to the yellow robed man.

"I have become old, again in a few years time I'll not be able to move, this time there is no margin for error!" Gu Hai said in a heavy tone.

The yellow robed man right away brew a cup of tea for Gu Hai, and very respectfully handed it to him.

"Foster father, did the Clear River Sect's Chief agree?" said Gu Han with a somewhat eager expression on his face.

Gu Hai nodded his head: "Yes, otherwise I would've not come here!"

"That would be great. If foster father can breakthrough to the Xiantian Stage,

then our Gu family will once again flourish for a hundred years. No, foster father was only lacking an opportunity, and once foster father has broken this restriction, nobody will be able to block foster father's path!" said Gu Han showing a trace of excitement.

"You few brothers, I watched all of you growing up, and your skeletal roots are very excellent, so even if I'm not able to but sooner or later you brothers will be able to enter an Immortal Sect!" Gu Hai smilingly said.

"No, me and my great brothers all believe in foster father!" Gu Han said in a heavy tone.

"Good. Gu Qin is using my name and now sitting at Chen Empire's Hulao Pass. Time is running out. Gao Xianzhi's army will attack at any time, so first tell me information about the Song Empire, as this father has already not set foot in the Song Empire for 10 years! This time, what is so special about this war between the two countries?" Gu Hai heavily said.

Gu Han with a respectful countenance nodded his head and said, "Yes, this time Gao Xianzhi had obtained the King of the Song Empire's command, and because of this he was able to behead Chen Grand-Marshal, and dispatch troops. All of it was completely controlled only by one person, but at the same time the King of the Song Empire is also worried, so for some assurance he also sent the Crown Prince as Deputy Marshal to travel with the army, to monitor Gao Xianzhi, but the Crown Prince has no military power. It's already been 8 years since this son has come to the Song Empire, and have been responsible for managing all the shops in the Song Empire. In accordance with the requirements of foster father, I've renamed myself as Tian Han, and all these years I've provided full financial support to the Crown Prince, and even the Crown Prince himself was only able to become the Crown Prince among the princes due to our support. I've already acquired the Crown Prince's trust and this is all thanks to our financial support!"

"The Crown Prince?" Gu Hai countenance slightly moved.

"Yes!"

"Over the years, have you collected a lot of data about the Song Empire's ruler and his ministers?" asked Gu Hai.

“Yes, we have already compiled it into a book!” Gu Han nodded his head.

Gu Hai approvingly nodded his head: “Right away send me all the data regarding the ruler and ministers. I want to look at it in order to find how to oppose this empire!”

At the Clear River Sect, inside the Sect Chief’s great hall.

The Clear River Sect’s Chief, and the Song First Sect’s Chief still accompanied Grandmaster Liunian and that girl.

Everyone was looking at the map.

“Grandmaster Liunian, what are your deductions? How will the two empire troops attack counter attack each other?” asked the girl laughingly.

“At the moment, Gao Xianzhi’s army is in high spirits, so they must be now rushing to Hulao Pass in one go, while the Chen Empire, due to the Chen Empire’s King’s imminent demise, the soldiers morale should have fallen and now is the best time to attack. Moreover, this Gu Hai is only a businessman, and now replacing the commander position in the frontlines is kind of a military taboo. Gao Xianzhi is an extremely clever person, so he is definitely going to push deeply, and use his elite troops to immediately destroying the Hulao Pass with lightning speed. The central area of the Chen Empire has no resistance, and this will result in the end of war!” Grandmaster Liunian solemnly said.

“Oh, you’re not optimistic about this Gu Hai?” the girl curiously asked.

“There’s no use, it’s too late! That Gao Xianzhi is not stupid, how can he allow others to counterattack?” Grandmaster Liunian smilingly said.

“Report!”

Suddenly from outside the hall came a loud shout.

“Ha ha ha, a messenger came. Let’s take a look at whether Grandmaster Liunian’s deduction in the end is right or wrong?” said the girl with a smile.

Soon, a man garbed in white robes entered the hall.

“Seen the Sect’s Chief, seen Hall Lord, seen Clear River Sect’s Chief!” That

white robe man began speaking.

“How is it? Did Gao Xianzhi directly rushed to Hulao Pass?” asked the Song First Sect’s Chief.

That white robe man shook his head and said, “He didn’t directly rush to Hulao Pass, but stopped and is slowly charging towards the cities all around Hulao Pass!”

“Oh!” Grandmaster Liunian slightly paused.

“What happened?” Song First Sect’s Chief while staring at him asked.

“Disciple has always been beside Gao Xianzhi and have following him since the start of campaign. I’ve always inquired about the first hand information and receive it immediately. Originally, after breaking the three passes, Gao Xianzhi reorganized all the soldiers and the horses, all 800000 of them. He was preparing to leave 500000 soldiers to conquer the cities in all four directions, and the remaining 300000 would’ve accompanied Gao Xianzhi and pushed directly into the Chen Empire, rushing straight to Hulao Pass, but we suddenly received some information. The Chen Empire is using Gu Hai, and after hearing this information Gao Xianzhi immediately halted his march!” said the white robe man.

“Oh? Because of Gu Hai?” Clear River Sect’s Chief’s eyes lit up.

The white robed man reluctantly nodded his head.

“How could it be, that Gu Hai is just an old man awaiting his death, so why would be Gao Xianzhi be afraid of him?” Suddenly Song First Sect’s Chief stared at him and said.

The white robed man said in an anguished tone, “Gao Xianzhi’s reaction was extremely severe, and right away sent messengers to the King of Song that he must immediately monitor all the empire’s businessmen. This was in order to prevent the businessmen adding more chaos at the moment, and also to immediately control all grocery stores, pharmaceutical stores, in order to prevent Gu Hai using commercial means to cut off the army supplies!”

“Gao Xianzhi is too sensitive. How can this small businessman effect the battlefield? Grocery stores? Pharmaceutical stores? How can this Gu Hai affect the whole Song Empire?” Suddenly Song First Sect’s Chief angrily asked.

The white robed man with a bitter smile responded, “This disciple similarly asked him, and Gao Xianzhi said ‘he can’!”

Song First Sect’s Chief: “.....!”

“Hahahahahaha!” However the Clear River Sect’s Chief was very happy.

Grandmaster Liunian and the girl both looked at each other, showing a trace of surprise.

“Now what’s the current situation?” said Song First Sect’s Chief in a heavy tone.

“I heard, everything is already under control, and the Song Empire have already sent a large number soldiers to guard enough food, medicinal supplies and sent them to the army frontlines, in order to ensure a foolproof plan!” said the white robed man.

“Since provisions and medicines are not blocked, then why is he not attacking?” Song First Sect’s spoke in a heavy tone.

“Gao Xianzhi said that at the moment he must first take all the city around Hulao Pass, cutting off all the means in which the Chen Empire may resist! Therefore, the march to Hulao Pass has been temporarily suspended. Gao Xianzhi also said that when three fourths of the Chen Empire’s land is taken, this will surely cause the people of Hulao Pass to panic, and as the time is dragged day by day, this panic will also increase day by day. So when the time to attack Hulao Pass arrives, it may be possible to conquer it without even attacking!” said the white robed man.

“Oh? Psychological warfare? But, this delay can be drag for far too long!” Grandmaster Liunian said with a frown.

Nearby Song First Sect’s Chief also said in a heavy tone, “Psychological warfare? How long do you think it will take? Is Gao Xianzhi not the God of War? Why is he so afraid of an old man who is halfway in his deathbed?”

“This disciple also asked the same thing!” said the white robed man with a smile.

“Oh? What was Gao Xianzhi reply?” Grandmaster Liunian curiously asked.

“Gao Xianzhi said, although Gu Hai is a businessman, however, his command of troops is equal to the world’s best!” The white robed man said with a bitter smile.

The Clear River Sect’s Chief, who was hearing this nearby, suddenly lit up at Gao Xianzhi’s evaluation! Equal to the best in the world? How is it possible? However, listening to Gao Xianzhi’s evaluation, Clear River Sect’s Chief was once again happy. Maybe, just maybe, it was still possible for Chen Empire to turn the tide?

“His command of troops is equal to the best in the world?” The girl was also suddenly interested.

“Hall Lord, this is just a few mortals outlook, and their outlook is confined to only this secular region. It’s also confined to these six mortal empires, that’s all. It can be treated as completely false!” One of the white robed man in the group said right away with a smile.

“Do not talk nonsense, then why did that Gao Xianzhi say that Gu Hai’s command of troops is equal to the best in the world? Looking at his command of troops, Gao Xianzhi is also very confident and proud of himself, then why is he so careful and cautious?” asked the girl.

“Yes, I myself also asked Gao Xianzhi the same thing, and then Gao Xianzhi told me the truth. Previously Gu Hai indeed had commanded the troops. Moreover, the achieved result was also very astonishing!” said the white robe man.

“Oh? How come we have not heard this before? Did you not say that Gu Hai was indeed a businessman?” said the girl with a frown.

“This matter is also very secretive, and previously I was also not aware of this matter. It was Gao Xianzhi who told me, and he came to know about this matter from his father. Gu Hai, 40 years ago, suddenly came from god knows where, and at that time Gu Hai was 30 years old. At that time we don’t know how the King of Chen, Chen Taichi, got acquainted with him, but at that time this secular world had eight empires, out of which the Chen Empire was the smallest, but was also facing destruction. Nevertheless, Gu Hai was quietly made Chen Taichi’s military advisor, in order to help him command the troops, and in just a short time, under Gu Hai’s command, every crisis was resolved. The Chen Army was

singing all the way that they were invincible!”

“Oh? Invincible?” The girl said with a surprise.

“Yes, invincible. The more they fought, the fewer enemies they had, and under Gu Hai’s commands, the troops always exceeded the opposite army count. Every time they were fighting countless classical battles, Gu Hai used ‘surround the cities from the countryside’, ‘sparrow warfare’, ‘tunnel warfare’, ‘surround Wei, rescue Zhao’, ‘obtain safe passage to conquer Gao’, and all these terms, this humble self also does not understand too much, but Gao Xianzhi said he is very familiar with them. At that time these terms were named by Gu Hai, and also using this unknown art of war, was victorious again and again. He also fought hundreds of battles in five consecutive years, and was never defeated, not even once. The Chen Empire which was originally on the verge of destruction, all of a sudden, sang loudly against the wind, and destroyed one empire. Followed by this campaign against the world, at that time out of eight empires, one empire was suddenly destroyed by the Chen Empire. They immediately disturbed other empires one after another, and in the end the other six empires then combined their forces and attacked the Chen Empire!” said the white robe man while recalling.

[TLN: I kept the name as it is in the original, but now I will briefly explain all the tactics one by one

1. **Surround the cities from the countryside:** The most direct meaning is breaking easy target first and then breaking the hard target. Here easy target are the rural areas and hard target are the cities. There are many other meaning or different way to interpret this strategy, but I think this will do. If anyone have some knowledge of other then please do tell.
2. **Sparrow warfare:** Created by imitating sparrows foraging, basically it is **Guerilla tactics**.
3. **Tunnel warfare:** General name for war being conducted in tunnels and other underground cavities
4. **Surround Wei, rescue Zhao:** One of 36 Stratagems of Art of War. When the enemy is too strong to be attacked directly, then attack something he holds dear. Know that he cannot be superior in all things. Somewhere there is a gap in the armour, a weakness that can be attacked instead. The

idea here is to avoid a head-on battle with a strong enemy, and instead strike at his weakness elsewhere. This will force the strong enemy to retreat in order to support his weakness. Battling against the now tired and low-morale enemy will give a much higher chance of success.

5. **Safe passage to conquer Gao:** Borrow the resources of an ally to attack a common enemy. Once the enemy is defeated, use those resources to turn on the ally that lent you them in the first place.]

“Comparing the difficulty of destroying a country and turning a defeat into a victory, destroying a country is even more difficult than winning, and at the same time they confronted a coalition army made from six empires?” Grandmaster Liunian complexion slightly changed.

“Yes, Gao Xianzhi said, that Gu Hai’s command of troops is too much mythical, and when the six empire coalition army arrived, they were still played into Gu Hai’s palm. The six empire’s two million strong coalition army still fell short, and the Chen Empire won and once again destroyed a country.” the white robe man said in a heavy tone.

“Once again destroyed a country?” the girl said surprised.

“Yes, Gu Hai command of army is just like how all rivers run into the sea; everything is welcomed. As for the Chen Army, it grew stronger and stronger and the, Chen Empire became even more tyrannical. Gao Xianzhi’s father, at that time, was also an amazing and famous general and one person in the coalition army. After fighting a battle against Gu Hai, he suddenly started to admire him, and didn’t have the confidence to fight him again, and since then retired and returned home. At that time Gu Hai’s army was just like a two-edged divine sword taken out from scabbard, and whichever direction it was swung, everything was annihilated into flying ash. At that time, Gu Hai was preparing to suppress all five countries in one go, but a major sect intervened, preventing Chen Empire’s footsteps, and making it not fight again! But even so, the remaining five countries had a lingering fear! Even after tens of years later they didn’t dare to command troops against the Chen Empire!” the white robe man explained.

[TLN: All rivers run into the sea: means, be tolerant of anything.]

Clear River Sect's Chief with a slightly wrinkle brow said, "At that time a few sects came to me, and for the sect benefits, under my command, I ordered Chen Taichi to not fight again. Originally, Chen Taichi didn't even lead the troops, but it was commanded by Gu Hai in secret?"

"Gu Hai's command of troops, was actually so formidable?"

"Gao Xianzhi said, his father also came to know by a lucky chance that Gu Hai manipulated the war situations, and after retiring, Gao Xianzhi's father continued to collect information about how Gu Hai implemented these strategies and what were its effects in the previous campaign of Gu Hai's. After collecting everything, he compiled it into a book, and from childhood he made Gao Xianzhi grew familiar with this art of war. Constantly pondering the battlefield from Gu Hai's perspective, Gao Xianzhi said he had studied that book for many years and clearly knows how terrifying Gu Hai is, so he is preparing for the safest way to win Hulao Pass!"

"Just a moment ago you said that Gu Hai in five consecutive years, fought hundreds of battles, and was never defeated?" Grandmaster Liunian curiously asked

"So many battles only in the span of five years?"

"Yes, Gao Xianzhi said that Gu Hai can fight several battles all at the same time, and in the span of five years made the Chen Empire, who was verge of destruction, into one the strongest empires in all six countries. Later we do not know what kind of conflict he had with Chen Taichi, but he never again participated in military affairs, and only became a wealthy old man, and unexpectedly, also the richest businessman of all six empires!" the white robe man said with a bitter smile.

Inside the hall, everyone was silent for a long time because all of it sounded too scary.

Everlasting Immortal Firmament - Chapter 5

Destroying Song Plan

At the Song Empire, in Song City!

Gu Hai and Gu Han were talking a stroll on the streets of Song City, watching the people passing by.

“Foster Father, the stores in front of us, all of them are ours!” Gu Han introduced one by one with a smile.

Gu Hai nodded his head, looking all around sighed and said, “Song City? These years did not change it a single bit!”

“Foster Father, I hear that you’ve previously commanded troops. Moreover it was difficult to find a rival under the heavens, taking a group of remnants of the army, and quickly expanding it into an invincible army. Why did you let Great Brother sit at Hulao Pass, while Foster Father came here?”

Gu Hai shook his head and said, “That Gao Xianzhi is marvellous, and so if you want to use the 100000 soldiers of Hulao Pass to defeat him, one would need a very long time, but currently what I’m lacking the most is time itself!”

“Time? Foster Father, if you were commanding army of Hulao pass, how long would it take for you to defeat the Song Army?”

“One year!”

“One Year? Is it long?”

Gu Hai shook his head and said, “If it’s commanding the troops, I’m not afraid of anyone, and sooner or later I will surely win, but this time the reason the Clear River Sect can so readily agreed to my request is because there is certainly a VIP observing the battlefield, such that it is similar to child play for them to make the

secular world fight among themselves. I'm worried if it takes too long, that VIP will impatiently leave, and then whether Clear River Sect will still keep their promises, about this even I'm not sure.....!"

"Ah? Foster Father, haven't the Clear River Sect's Chief already signed the written agreement?" Gu Han said with a surprise.

Gu Hai said along with a snort, "Have you already forgotten what I told you?"

"I understand. The other party will only comply to this kind of commitment in case of strength or status, and whether it is strength or status, if there is a very large difference, the promise is only a joke. Perhaps Clear River Sect's Chief will honor it or perhaps he simply will not bother!" Gu Han solemnly said.

Gu Hai nodded his head and said, "I'm now only borrowing the VIP's influence! Therefore, I want that VIP to manage everything before leaving, and aptly fulfill this promise!"

"Yes!" Gu Han said with a heavy heart.

"But Foster Father, right now the Song Empire's morale is quite good! Ruler and his ministers are together, ministers and citizens are together, citizens and army are together. To say it simply it is a block of iron-plate, their morale is soaring in the sky, this is an irreversible force! Foster Father has examined the data in these two days, can you think of a way?" Gu Han said with some worry.

"Ruler and his ministers are together, then we should sow discord between ruler and his ministers! Minister and citizens are together, then we should sow discord between ministers and the citizens! Citizens and army are together, then we should sow discord between the citizens and the army!" Gu Hai solemnly said.

"Oh? What does Foster Father plan to do?" Gu Han while his eyes lit up.

"Plan, I've already developed most of the plan, it is called the 'Destroying Song Plan'. Since Song Empire's Ruler, ministers, citizens and army are unanimously united, then we should dismantle it, destroy it one by one. The morale of the army, morale of the citizens, morale of the ministers, and morale of the ruler, I want them to be in chaos one by one, and then destroyed! Thereafter Song Empire will naturally collapse!" Gu Hai solemnly said.

“Destroying Song Plan? Foster Father, how do you want to proceed?” Gu Han said slightly excited.

Gu Han, since his childhood, had seen the formidability of Gu Hai. ‘Plan 计划’, as long as there was these two characters, then it would certainly be followed by a series of unthinkable stratagems. Each ‘Plan’ was like one giant battle, multifaceted, which makes it very hard for people to track.

“In fact on the way to Song Empire, I was also thinking the same thing. These past two days I’ve been reading the information you’ve collected on the Song Empire’s aristocrats, just to select the most crucial part, that’s all. But currently I am just lacking an opportunity and the candidate who can be used as a pawn. Tomorrow, hold a party and invite some of the people I’ve selected to the Tian mansion banquet, I’ll carefully observe them!” said Gu Hai.

“Yes!” Gu Han nodded his head.

Two people side by side were conversing while walking on the streets. Suddenly, a dismayed shout came from the distance.

“Ah!”

“Go away, do not get in the way!”

“Drive!”

“Tabdak Tabdak!”

.....

.....

.....

In the front, the street was in chaos, a large number of pedestrians fled in panic, some even fell on the ground. About twenty horses were galloping quickly, and all the people riding on the horses were wearing luxurious robes.

“Kacha!”

“Ah!”

A brittle sound accompanied with a loud scream rang out. A pedestrian who was slow in escaping, suddenly broke his leg and painfully screamed.

“Tabdak Tabdak!”

The twenty horse’s speed was unabated, and they were directly rushing away. The group was led by a teenager, each and every one of their faces were filled with a violent aura. At the moment both of eyes of the teenager were ice-cold, as if he had encountered some unhappy event.

“This is emperor’s grandson, Song Zhengxi! He is the Crown Prince’s son, and is also in the information given to Foster Father. He is domineering and arrogant, and can be counted as a calamity in Song City. At such a young age he already has a very violent personality, and has spoiled lot of Song City’s girls!” Gu Han explained.

“He is the emperor’s grandson, Song Zhengxi?” Gu Hai’s eyes squinted.

“Drive, get out, get out!” Song Zhenxi whipping the horse, galloped quickly.

“Boom!”

Once again under the leg of Song Zhengxi’s black horse someone was struck and flew out.

“Peng!”

Gu Han caught that flying person after he was hit.

“Humph!” Song Zhengxi with squinted eyes looked and coldly snorted.

However, Song Zhengxi didn’t stop, and continued to gallop quickly. Behind him the twenty guards and their horses followed, and along the way, entire street was in ruins.

As Song Zhengxi left, on the streets a series of cries rang out. All the way through, at least 8 pedestrians were injured by Song Zhengxi and his group of horses.

“Many, many thanks!” That man hit by the horse a moment ago gratefully said.

“Go to the hospital and have the doctor take a look, there is no injury to the bone!” Gu Han said.

“Yes, thanks a lot. Oh, I’m really just superficially injured. Two sirs, thanks a lot,

I'll go first!"

As that man left, Gu Han also looked at Gu Hai, but at the moment Gu Hai was looking at the fading back of the leaving Song Zhengxi, and with a slight wrinkled brow said, "Good heavy smell of blood!"

"Oh?"

"Song Zhenxi's clothes were stained with blood. No. More or less all of the twenty guard's bodies were also stained with blood, but there was also some traces of burning. Immediately send someone to check out where they had previously gone!" Gu Hai said in a heavy tone.

"Yes!" Gu Han replied.

After two hours.

Gu Han and Gu Hai with some guards came to the outskirts of Song City, in one remote small village.

Standing in the village, Gu Hai's and Gu Han's complexion was solemn.

What they saw was dozens of households in this small village, which was not a small number, turned into a complete pile of ruins. A fire and dozens of households were almost burned clean. A large house had a charred plaque. The 'Lin Mansion 林府' were the two words on the plaque and they were barely recognizable.

"Go and take a look if there is some alive or not!" Gu Han said, facing the 7-8 guards behind him.

"Yes!"

Boom!

A group of bodyguards quickly moved out. This group started searching for people in the ruined houses, and soon a charred body was carried out.

"There is no soot inside the mouth. He was first killed and then the corpse was burnt!" a guard from the group said.

"Patriarch, here is someone alive!" One guard shouted.

"Oh?" Everyone suddenly enclosed towards him.

It was in the Lin Mansion ruins, and although that man's entire body was pitch black, however, he still weakly moved.

"A sword pierced his heart and yet he is unexpectedly still alive?" Gu Han said with a surprise.

"No, this human heart is on the right side, so he luckily survived!" Gu Hai said in a heavy tone.

A congregation of bodyguards quickly removed the soot from his mouth and nose, some took out their water and poured on him.

"Cough Cough Cough!"

The man weakly coughed and opened his eyes, and while looking all around, he was somewhat dazed. His eyes occasionally looked at a wreckage.

"Sister, sister, sister!" The man got up like a maniac, and looking all around.

"All the bodies are outside!" Gu Hai slightly sighed and said.

That man quickly climbed out and carefully looked around, and finally found a pitch black girl.

The girl's head was as if it was cracked open, and also on the girl's body there was also a bloody hole. Her clothes were disheveled, and too much of her blood been flown so she was already dead.

"Sister, sister, you can not be dead, sister!" The man kept shaking the girl's body.

But, for a long time there was not a sound of girl's breath.

"Ah, ah, ah, Song Zhengxi, ah!" The man holding the girl's body painfully cried.

"Foster Father, from the previous information it's already pretty clear. This is Gao Xianzhi's first seated deacon's resident, Ling Chong's house! This girl is called Xiaodi, and she is Lin Chong's wife. The two love each other very much, but I do not know how much later Song Zhengxi saw Xiaodi, but he has always been coveting her for a long time. This time he perhaps took advantage of Ling Chong while no one was at home, so.....!" Gu Han explained.

"Gao Xianzhi's first seated deacon, Lin Chong?" Gu Hai looking at the suffering

man solemnly said.

“Most powerful officials are same. The emperor’s grandson has done this type of tragedy in the same way more than once and only due to his distinguished identity, all of it was suppressed down by the authorities. This time also, the government authorities will certainly come and suppress this matter too!” said Gu Han while shaking his head.

Gu Hai’s brows were tightly knit, and said, “Cancel tomorrow’s meeting. You don’t have search for someone else, since we’ve already ran into Song Zhengxi. Moreover he has already sinned, then eventually he will have to pay!”

“Foster Father wants to use Song Zhengxi as the lead actor? Do you want him to be dead?” Gu Han’s countenance was immediately moved.

“No, I want him alive!” said Gu Hai with a sliver of coldness in his eyes.

— — —

A day later, in a small manor outside of Song City. Gu Hai commanded a group of servants, and a large number of letters were being tied to a flock of messaging pigeons. Gu Han stood before Gu Hai, clutching a stack of papers, and on the front sheet four large characters ‘Destroying Song Plan 灭宋计划’ were on it.

“Foster Father, that Xiaodi’s brother is already following out the caravan to the frontlines, and it should not be long before he reaches Lin Chong’s location!” said Gu Han.

“One Xiaodi is naturally far from enough. Next, collect all the evidence of Song Zhenxi’s crimes, and also abduct all the local military families in a poor situation. Even if they do not exist, fabricate some of them, but do not hurt them. First make them disappear for sometime! At the end of the war, you can release them.” Gu Hai said in a heavy tone.

“Foster Father be at ease. However, from the frontlines came some news. Gao Xianzhi halted his march when he heard Foster Father was sitting at Hulao Pass” Gu Han said with a trace of pride in his words.

“No, Gao Xianzhi’s command of troops is mysterious and odd. He is not someone who is not willing to take risks, that information is just to deceive the public. If my guess is correct, he has not halted his march now, but rather with a

group of soldiers he has quietly arrived at Hulao Pass!” Gu Hai spoke in a heavy tone.

“Oh?” Gu Han showed a trace of surprise.

“Gu Qin is over there, he should be able to adhere for sometime. Therefore, during this time, we must as soon as possible destroy the army of 800000 soldiers!” Gu Hai spoke in a heavy tone.

“I looked at Foster Father’s ‘Destroying Song Plan’, and according to it we must first decrease the army’s morale!” said Gu Han with a trace of admiration in his eyes.

“Release these group of messaging pigeons. The destruction of the Song Empire starts!” Gu Hai said.

“Boom!”

The pigeon gate opened, and a large group of pigeons flew towards the sky, directly soaring towards the northern region.

Everlasting Immortal Firmament - Chapter 6

Chapter 6—The Moon Waxes Only to Wane

Hulao Pass!

“Dang! Dang! Dang! Dang.....!”

The sound of a gong ordering retreat could be heard from outside Hulao Pass.

Hulao Pass was an enormous gate-tower city, located in between two steep precipices. At the present moment, regardless of if it was inside the gate-tower, or outside of Hulao Pass, the ground was all strewn with corpses and innumerable rockets, smoke from the gunpowder all around the scene. At the side of the gate-tower, magnanimous escalades were presently all being burned by a large fire.

Gu Qin, whose hair was now dyed white, stood at the window of the gate-tower, overlooking the great amount of currently retreating Song soldiers below.

Behind Gu Qin stood Chen Tianshan and Chen Liangyi.

“Hiss, what a close call, because of the news that came through previously, Gao Xianzhi’s troops were intimidated by Gu Hai, unexpectedly stopping their troops to reorganize; who would have thought, who would have that he would have unexpectedly been deceiving them? Gao Xianzhi arrived faster than I could have imagined, furthermore everyone he brought with him were elite troops; if you hadn’t prepared much earlier for this, Hulao Pass would have nearly been captured!” Chen Tianshan spoke, his face filled with trepidation.

Chen Liangyi also resolutely nodded his head: “Fortunately you had prepared the kerosene, so that when they began to use escalades, once could use the

kerosene to burn the escalade; otherwise, it would have been too horrible to think about, too horrible to think about. As expected, it was the Tiger Wolf troops, even if only one had climbed onto the top, it would have equaled five of our soldiers, this, this...!" Chen Liangyi also spoke in trepidation.

Gu Qin did not look at the two people, instead looking towards the distance, quietly speaking to himself: "You idiot, regardless of what time it is, I cannot let anything slip, remember, right now I am Gu Hai!"

At the present moment, Gu Qin's hair had been dyed into white, on his face appearing a great amount of wrinkles; even if he was not very similar to Gu Hai, the people who had met Gu Hai personally before could be counted with fingers, and this year the people who had met Gu Qin was also very few. Furthermore Gu Qin's present appearance had changed a great deal, the average person would find it difficult to recognize him; even the Gu Mansion's most trusted aides would not be able see through him.

Chen Tianshan and Chen Liangyi examined Gu Qin, solemnly nodding their heads.

At the original time that Gu Hai had arranged, Chen Tianshan had had a sudden burst of unwillingness. He had been anxious that a mishap had occurred, although at the present moment, he did not have any grievances; at the very least, Gu Hai had anticipated the enemy's main opportunity, and just recently the consecutive ten-hour attack had been unexpectedly been resisted, letting Gao Xianzhi return without any achievements.

"I'll listen to anything you say. However you want to do something, will be the way that it will be done, as long as it can block Gao Xianzhi!" Chen Liangyi resolutely spoke.

"Chen Immortal Expert, Father wants to defeat the Song Kingdom in the quickest manner, therefore, regarding Father's tendencies, you mustn't leak anything out, as so to avoid any accidents." Gu Qin solemnly spoke.

Chen Tianshan nodded his head: "I will keep this confidential for your sake. It's just that regarding the besiegement that happened earlier, just three thousand people died, Gao Xianzhi also lost three thousand people, but that was only a handful of his troops; the moment when his numerous troops unceasingly

converged towards Hulao Pass, how did you resist?”

“Don’t worry about it, I believe in Father, Father will very quickly bind them!”
After a moment of silence, Gu Qin finally spoke.

“Oh?”

“The person who previously broke through the barrier was indeed Gao Xianzhi’s vanguard general, that high-ranking military officer ‘Lin Chong’. This man is extremely brave and powerful, it’s very important that we pay attention to him, later I’ll have an artist draw his appearance, and give it to every soldier in the city to look at; as long as you see this person approach, immediately fire with all your strength!” Gu Qin heavily spoke.

“Yes!” Chen Liangyi replied.

Outside of the Hulao Pass.

Amongst a campground of large tents.

An approximately forty-year-old scholarly man wearing red clothing, was presently holding a cup of hot tea in his hands, carefully looking at an enormous diorama. Above the diorama was a detailed description of the terrain outside of Hulao Pass.

Beside him stood a group of imperial bodyguards, all extremely quiet, nobody daring to disrupt this scholarly man clasping the cup of tea.

The man’s appearance was clearly handsome, the space in between his eyebrows seeming to be filled with an inexplicable heroic spirit, making the people who looked at him all experience a resonating state of mind feeling.

After he had drank a mouthful of tea, he used his hands to gesticulate towards the diorama.

“Report!”

Immediately, a powerful man covered entirely with blood rushed into the large tent.

“Plop!”

The powerful man plopped into a kneel, his face filled with shame and

uneasiness.

The scholarly man clasping the cup of tea nevertheless turned his back on him, continuing to look towards at the diorama.

“Commander, Lin Chong failed, he was unable to attack Hulao Pass, those Hulao Pass commanders seemed to know in advance generally what we were going to do, preparing kerosene ahead of time. Our casualties were disastrous, about thirty-thousand soldiers unfortunately dying; furthermore, there are twenty-thousand people with varying injuries. Your subordinates were incompetent, in this way causing large losses. Commander, please punish us!” The powerful man pleaded for forgiveness as he kneeled on the ground.

The commander clasping the cup of tea did not move his head, continuing to look towards at the diorama.

“Commander, please punish us, your subordinates were incompetent, unable to attack the gate-tower!” The powerful Lin Chong once again knocked his head against the ground as he pleaded for forgiveness.

“Your inability to attack the gate-tower, is normal; if you had been able to attack the gate-tower, that would have been considered to be abnormal!” The commander clasping the cup of tea insipidly opened his mouth to speak.

“Ah?” Lin Chong ignorantly looked at the commander.

The generalissimo¹ that had launched an expedition against Chen, Gao Xianzhi!

Gao Xianzhi clasped the cup of tea as he slowly turned his body around, looking towards at Lin Chong, faintly smiling as he spoke: “I did not have any hope that you would be able to successfully attack Hulao Pass! It was merely to allow the vanguard troops to test out Hulao Pass’s quality. You don’t have to blame yourself, the people defending that city, are not people you are capable of confronting!”

“Commander, you don’t blame me?” Lin Chong astonishedly spoke.

Gao Xianzhi drank a mouthful of the tea within his hands, nodding his head as he spoke: “I have already let people investigate thoroughly the terrain that surrounds Hulao Pass; Gu Hai really is worthy of his reputation, unexpectedly his defense is invulnerable; even including those steep mountain passes, he has

defended by destroying the cliffs, cutting off our only road!”

“But, but our thirty-thousand comrades...!” Lin Chong appearance became unsightly as he spoke.

“Well, if there’s a war, there’s naturally casualties. The people that Gu Hai and us met in the past are all different, you must never hold contempt for him, you must consider him to be an extremely formidable opponent; remember, he is stronger than me!” Gao Xianzhi profoundly spoke.

“Ah? How is that possible, Commander, currently in the Song Guo, I only admire you!” Lin Chon immediately said, unconvinced.

“But from today onwards, I only admire him!” Gao Xianzhi said heavily.

“Ah? What?” Lin Chong astonishedly spoke.

“Even though I admire him, I still want to defeat him, therefore, you must be careful!” Gao Xianzhi solemnly spoke.

“Yes!”

“This Gu Hai’s way of employing his soldiers is practically impossible to defend against; furthermore, he makes many moves outside of the chessboard, making it impossible for you to notice. Afterwards, even if it is not on the battleground, if an abnormal matter occurs, the first thing you must do is contact me!” Gao Xianzhi heavily spoke.

“Yes!”

“Battle for three more days, even if many people die needlessly it doesn’t matter, once they die, within Hulao Pass an equivalent amount of people will die as well; the trash troops within Hulao Pass, once they see their comrades die one by one, their hearts will definitely be affected. After three days, we will withdraw the troops, and wait for the next few days; by the time I send some troops to surge the city and invade, they will inevitably destroy themselves out of fear!” Gao Xianzhi drank a last mouthful of tea, coldly speaking.

“Yes!”

Three days later.

Above the Hulao Pass gate-tower city.

“Withdrew their troops, they finally withdrew their troops!” At this moment Chen Liangyi’s eyes were brimming with tears of excitement.

“But in these three days, we have lost ten-thousand men!” Chen Tianshan’s appearance was unsightly as he spoke.

In total there were only a hundred thousand soldiers, ten thousand now dead, the effectiveness of the psychological blow affected morale in an extremely frightening manner; furthermore, the opposite side still had seven, eight hundred thousand troops to arrive.

“Are you worried that the barracks will have an uproar?” Gu Qin made a disparaging smile as he spoke.

“Will there be one?” Chen Liangyi worriedly spoke.

“Yes!” Gu Qin wore a face of certainty as he spoke.

“Ah?”

“Gao Xianzhi’s psychological warfare imitates those of my father’s; if he uses it, how can my father not use it as well? Relax, let me do the organizing, and change our methods of propaganda; these ten thousand deaths, not only will it not make them so scared that they turn into sheeple, but instead it will evoke their vicious natures, making them not afraid of death!” Gu Qin smiled as he spoke.

“Ah?”

Gao Xianzhi rode on a large black horse, leading ten thousand wounded, slowly making their way towards a distant large city.

Although they had not successfully attacked Hulao Pass, regarding Gao Xianzhi’s opinion, he was satisfied; because Gao Xianzhi had already planted the seeds of fear into the remaining Chen Kingdom troops in Hulao Pass.

In Hulao Pass ten thousand Chen soldiers had died; perhaps it could evoke their vicious natures, but, what use would that be? In the future, when his eight hundred troops would besiege the walls, the seeds of fear within the Chen soldiers’s hearts would sprout, and quickly destroy all the pent-up vicious natures.

Before his eyes were the eight hundred thousand troops' largest stronghold. It was also formerly the Chen Kingdom's largest city outside of the imperial capital, called 'Merchant City'; it was here, in this very place, that the richest man within all of the six kingdoms had received his fortunes.

Presently, it had been seized by himself a long time ago, and was now regarded as a military stronghold, where he used troops to seize cities in all four directions.

"The Commander has returned!" From very far away there were already officers and soldiers coming to welcome him.

"Within the Merchant City, were there any merchants that displayed errant actions?" Gao Xianzhi asked.

"None, Commander, you can relax, you've made us monitor them for a long time; not just the Merchant City, but other cities were also subjected to this, there's basically no merchants that dare to mess around!" The head soldier spoke.

"Ah!" Gao Xianzhi nodded his head.

The troops slowly stepped into the city. Towards the heart of the city was an enormous military training ground. The military training ground was also where the large troops were gathered; not including the troops had had gone out on the campaign, in here at the very least there were three hundred thousand stationed.

The military training ground and barracks were still a great distance away. Gao Xianzhi suddenly wrinkled his eyebrows; from the faraway training ground came the sound of firecrackers.

"Pitter-patter!"

The firecrackers were incessant, the sound incomparably noisy!

"What's going on?" Gao Xianzhi slightly wrinkled his eyebrows.

"Commander, these are some of our Song Kingdom's richest merchants, they previously came to show appreciation to our troops!" The head soldier laughed as he spoke.

“What? Rich merchants?” Gao Xianzhi’s facial expression changed.

In a split second he thought of the richest individual in all of the six kingdoms, Gu Hai.

“Go²!”

Gao Xianzhi whipped the horse’s buttocks, the black horse immediately speeding up.

Very quickly he arrived onto the military training grounds and the barracks. At the moment, a group of people dressed in brightly colored gowns, were respectfully saluting to a middle-aged man wearing a magnificent gown.

“The crown prince was greatly demanding, but us merchants were incompetent and could only express good intentions; it really does not matter very much, it was all our good intentions. Seeing the Song Kingdom’s unceasing strength, inside our hearts we were very happy; therefore, our city’s commerce chamber agreed to gift these materials to you, in order to prevent the Chen Kingdom’s Gu Hai get away with any loopholes!” The group was headed by a portly middle-aged man wearing a brocade gown, exceedingly deferential as he spoke.

In front of the middle-aged man wearing the brocade gown was really the Song Kingdom crown prince, presently standing in front of a crowd of rich merchants, in his eyes a look of satisfaction flashing through it.

“The Commander has returned to the camp!” Suddenly a young soldier loudly shouted.

“Crash!”

In all directions, regardless if it was an officer, soldier, the crown prince, a rich merchant, or a part-time worker; one after another they turned their heads to look at him.

They saw Gao Xianzhi riding a large horse, in that moment reaching the entrance.

Not from far away the sound of firecrackers resounded. Gao Xianzhi’s eyes flashed coldly.

“Greetings to the Commander!” The Song crown prince laughed as he spoke.

“Paying respects to the Commander!” The group of rich merchants excitedly paid their respects.

“What’s going on?” Gao Xianzhi coldly spoke.

“Oh, this is my Song Kingdom Peng City’s commerce chamber; after hearing that you ordered the supervision of every granary, medicinal storehouse, as so to prevent Gu Hai from using trade to start a rebellion, cutting off our demand, the Peng City commerce chamber spontaneously organized together this, transporting great amounts of foodstuffs, medicinal ingredients, striving their hardest for our kingdom, supporting my troops!” The Song crown prince laughed as he spoke.

“Oh?” Gao Xianzhi faintly said, looking as if misunderstood.

After Gao Xianzhi heard that Gu Hao was leading the troops, his first reaction, was that Gu Hai would try and cut off trade for natural resources, and had prepared for it for a long time; he had not thought Song Kingdom Peng City’s commerce chamber would be this conscientious.

The head merchant was all smiles as he spoke: “Congratulations, Commander, the entire road is filled with songs about you, even extinguishing the Chen Emperor; when we received these news, our hearts without exception surged with excitement, all acutely believing in you. Therefore, that’s why I brought the military these materials. On one hand, we admire you very much, on the other hand, we wanted to bring you our sincere congratulations; we hope that the Commander will allow this!”

Gao Xianzhi furrowed his brows as he stared towards the crowd of rich merchants. Because of Gao Xianzhi’s vigilance, the first thing he tried to find out was whether or not that they were spies dispatched by Gu Hai, carrying out some conspiracy. However, seeing the large amount of foodstuffs and medicinal supplies not very far away, Gao Xianzhi exposed a trace of confusion. It almost seemed something wasn’t quite right!

However, if it was really was an offer of congratulations and natural resources that had come previously, there was no need to crack down on it.

“Then I will, on behalf of the entire army, thank you! As we’ve been on a long-range raid for the entire journey, we are profoundly exhausted, therefore we are unable to receive you properly!” Gao Xianzhi opened his mouth to speak.

“That is natural, that is natural!” The crowd of rich merchants immediately smiled as they spoke.

“Commander, why don’t you rest for a while, this place has me!” The crown prince smiled as he spoke.

Gao Xianzhi nodded his head.

At nightfall, Lin Chong walked into Gao Xianzhi’s large tent.

“Commander, I’ve already inspected everything, the foodstuffs, medicine, have no problems with them, they are all the best! Looks like this group of rich merchants have no affiliation with Gu Hai!”

“They are all the best?” Gao Xianzhi faintly wrinkled his eyebrows.

“Yes, this group of merchants are really too cordial, going so far as to host a firework show, congratulating our present enormous victories!” Lin Chong laughed as he spoke.

“Dispatch some men to watch over this group of merchants!” Gao Xianzhi profoundly spoke.

“Commander, I heard that tomorrow morning they’ll leave, why...?”

“I have an inevitable type of bad premonition, watch them, as to avoid any mishaps!” Gao Xianzhi said heavily.

“Yes!”

The second day, Gao Xianzhi got out of bed, washing his face.

“Pitter-patter!”

Outside of the barracks, once again came the sound of firecrackers.

“Eh? Lin Chong!” Gao Xianzhi coldly yelled.

“Present!” Lin Chong quickly entered the large tent.

“Didn’t I tell to watch over the Peng City merchants? Did anything happen?”

Gao Xianzhi heavily spoke.

“Nothing, they left early this morning. Oh, but, today is when the rich Yun City merchants came to reward the army, the firecrackers were exploding from the outside of the city all the way to the barracks. They also brought large amounts of medicinal ingredients and foodstuffs. It looks like that they aren’t fake either!” Lin Chong smiled as he spoke.

“Rich merchants from Yun City?” Gao Xianzhi revealed a trace of ignorance.

“Yes, it was all foodstuffs, medicinal ingredients, all of them of the best quality, we’ve sent people to look over them. Haha, at this rate we won’t have to worry about Gu Hai getting in our way!” Lin Chong laughed as he spoke.

Gao Xianzhi revealed a trace of a doubtful appearance.

Song Kingdom Imperial Capital, Song Kingdom. Tian Mansion.

In front of Gu Hai was a Go board. Gu Hai set down Go pieces one by one against himself; besides him stood his foster son, Gu Han.

“Father, the Peng City commerce chamber, the Yun City commerce chamber, the Hui City commerce chamber, have unceasingly proceeded to Merchant City. According to your orders they have sent great amounts of foodstuffs, medicinal ingredients. Every commerce chamber are under our influence, one after another heading onto the roads; it’s just that, in this way sending all this foodstuff, medicinal ingredients, what use does it do?” Gu Han spoke with misgivings.

Gu Hai placed a white Go piece on the Go board, revealing a trace of a frivolous smile: “Yes, what use does it do? Gu Han, can you not think of the answer?”

Gu Han’s expression changed: “Oh, I know it now, Father. Because Gao Xianzhi is defending against us, he had long ago prepared enough foodstuffs and medicinal ingredients; therefore, when we send foodstuffs and medicinal ingredients, he has basically no need for them. If food and medicinal supplies were to be cut short, they would treasure it incomparably; however, if there is sufficient foodstuffs, even if they were to have more it would serve no use to them, so therefore they can only store it in some place, letting someone take

care of it, and transport it. When they have so much, they are better off having material advantages like money, at least they can give money to the army, encouraging their morale. But food is not a good reward, at the very least right before a conflict they cannot hand it out; if they were to give it out, their army would be unable to bring it back with them, so food and medicinal supplies are tantamount to rubbish. This is really a good way to fool people!”

“This phenomenon is known as ‘the moon waxes only to wane’³. Every extremity, not only does it have no benefit, it also has harmful effects!” Gu Hai profoundly spoke.

“Yes, when those soldiers and officers see the large quantities being sent into the camp, it will do themselves even a little bit of good, inside their hearts they will definitely feel some disequilibrium.” Gu Han laughed as he spoke.

“What else?” Gu Hai once again placed a black Go piece as he spoke.

Gu Han knew that Gu Hai was teaching him, so therefore he analyzed with great effort, staying silent for a moment. Gu Han’s eyes suddenly brightened, inside his eyes flashing a trace of an shocked expression.

“The firecrackers, fireworks?” Gu Han astonishedly spoke.

Gu Han faintly laughed: “How is that relevant?”

“Inside Merchant City three hundred thousand soldiers are stationed, furthermore there five hundred thousand troops additionally, unceasingly attacking cities in other regions. Merchant City is where the general headquarters are stationed, and is also equivalent to a place to recuperate from injuries. Elite soldiers are unceasingly being dispatched outside, while wounded soldiers are are being unceasingly transported back to Merchant City, once again recuperating. If someone breaks their arm, or breaks their legs, or has wounds all over their body, their hearts will naturally be incomparably unhappy. People with handicapped bodies have a despairing thought towards their futures. But at this time, when other people are having festive celebrations, the cry of firecrackers everywhere, incomparably celebrating; the morale of injured soldiers will exceedingly drop, this is practically putting salt into their wounds!” Gu Han spoke.

“Continue!”

“The fireworks in the night look beautiful and dazzling, but towards wounded soldiers it is almost as if they are sneering at their handicaps! Adding the great amount of foodstuffs, and medicinal ingredients being transported there, it is not distributed evenly to everybody’s hands, this group of wounded soldiers will furthermore feel discriminated against in their hearts; why do others get to experience flourishing victory, while I can only receive a hopeless future?” Gu Han spoke.

Gu Hai nodded his head: “Is there anything else?”

Gu Han pondered deeply for a while, until his expression finally changed.

“Father, are you talking about the ordinary people in Merchant City?” Gu Han astonishedly spoke.

Gu Hai froze in the middle of setting down the Go piece, nodding his head as he spoke: “Yes, Gao Xianzhi buried alive six hundred thousand Chen soldiers, these six hundred thousand people were the pillars of countless ordinary households. They had sons, they were husbands, were fathers, they were the moral pillars of each and every household. When they died, the households have grieved for a long time, despairing about their hopeless futures. It’s only that they are unable to resist against this group of invaders that they do not do anything. Presently at this moment these invaders are celebrating every day, it’s similar to the devil wanting to assimilate with them. Although they are helpless, inside of their hearts more and more enmity flourishes with every passing moment!”

“With every passing day, when this enmity reaches its peak, will it result in an extremely frightening strength?” Gu Han deeply breathed in a mouthful of air as he spoke.

“Remember, no matter who it is, they are incapable of resisting the people’s ocean of fury; when the tides of fury begin to engulf everything, it is similar to heaven falling and earth rending, something impossible to defend against!” Gu Hai spoke profoundly.

“Hiss!” Gu Han sucked in a mouthful of cold air.

“Father, your son could not have imagined, that these unimportant firecrackers and fireworks could unexpectedly conceal this kind of danger,

unexpectedly being able to change the will of the people!”

“The will of the people is the most formidable strength! Similarly, the will of the people is also the weakest strength! Pay careful attention this is only starting!”

After he had finished talking, Gu Hai once again placed a Go piece onto the Go board.

¹A generalissimo is the highest military rank. People who have had this title include Chiang Kai-shek, leader of the Republic of China.

²There isn't really an English equivalent of this word. Jia (𨋖) is essentially what you say to get a horse to move; unlike English, it doesn't take into account how fast or slow you want to go.

³The title, 'the moon waxes only to wane', is the first half of a Chinese idiom (月满则亏, 水满则溢) which means 'the moon waxes only to wane, water brims only to overflow'. It basically means that every extremity is a fault.

I will be taking my semester finals next week, which is why XLZS has remained unupdated for so long. Updates will continue after summer break begins.

Everlasting Immortal Firmament - Chapter 7.1

Stabbed Right at the Heart of Camp – Part 1

Chapter 7 Stabbed Right At The Heart Of Camp

Traders City! Gao Xianzhi Camp!

A large number of soldiers were gathered in one giant square. At the moment, dozens of tied Song Empire soldiers were being pulled, and were kneeling above the space inside the square.

All the soldiers were looking straight at the Commander Gao Xianzhi in the south, as well as the assisting Song Crown Prince beside him.

“Let me go, I want to go back, let me go back!”

“With all my might I’ve been fighting in the front lines, regardless of worrying about the danger. However, those dog officials have actually killed my whole family, let me go, let me have revenge!”

“My whole family is gone, a fire obliterated everything! I want to look for my father, and my mother, quickly release me!”

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The group of tied Song Empire soldiers with very red eyes facing Gao Xianzhi, and the Song Crown Prince were screaming.

Gao Xianzhi’s complexion was gloomy as he stared at those tied crazy soldiers right in front of him. The Song Crown Prince also looked at the Gao Xianzhi.

“Lin Chong, have you found out everything?” Gao Xianzhi asked in a heavy

tone.

Lin Chong beside him nodded his head and replied, “Commander, all the deserters have been caught and brought back. This subordinate also asked questions a moment ago, and they did not hold anything back. With the arrival of various merchants, they also brought sad news from the rear! Aristocrats in some places have mutilated the soldiers’ families, and their loved ones who have escaped came to notify them. The deserted soldiers are those whose family members have been mutilated!”

“How many people?” Gao Xianzhi asked in a heavy tone.

“Already thirty families have encountered mishap!” Lin Chong, with an ugly complexion, replied.

“Did the Gu Hai’s scheme start? He wants to mess up my soldiers’ morale? Humph!” Gao Xianzhi coldly said.

“Gu Hai’s scheme?” Song Crown Prince’s complexion sank.

“What happened? Who spread these rumours in my camp?” Gao Xianzhi coldly asked.

“It was those rich traders, and the servants of those rich traders. Messenger or relatives of the soldiers mixed in various cities, and these days quietly came into contact with the soldiers and brought the bad news, that’s why they deserted!” Lin Chong explained.

“Those rich traders? Humph, those heartless wealthy people messed up my army’s morale. They should all be killed!” Song Crown Prince said with staring eyes.

“Crown Prince calm yourself!” Gao Xianzhi shook his head.

“How? Commander, you want to shield those rich traders?” Song Crown Prince said in a heavy tone.

Gao Xianzhi with a slightly bitter smile said, “No, Crown Prince, you should take a look at those soldiers’ appearance! Gu Hai’s scheme has already begun, and it can not stop!”

“En?” Song Crown Prince with a trace of doubt looked towards those soldiers.

Naturally the eyes of those tied deserters were red, however, the other onlooking soldiers at this moment were also very solemnly looking at those deserters in the square, and unexpectedly those soldiers didn't have a look of disgust, but more of a look of sympathy.

If they escaped cowardly, all the soldiers would naturally completely cast them aside.

Could they be timid? Those deserters and us are very similar, we busted our asses in the frontlines for what? Was it not so that our old parents, wife and children at home could live a good life? Today, for the Great Song Empire we went through fire and water, and went on an expedition in sandy plains. However those dog officials enjoyed happiness in the rear, moreover, they also harmed their parents, killed their wives and children who were waiting for them. Would anyone in their place not also harbor anger in their heart?

Deserters? To hell with deserting the army. These deserters rightfully escaped. If it was I, I would've also escaped.

Moreover those tied deserters were basically their brothers who went through life and death in the battlefield, shed blood, and even if they were disabled it would not make them cry, but those dog officials in the rear were too disappointing.

I have not been filial to my parents, have not given a good life to my wife and children, are they also harmed? Are they safe?

Today, the Commander was going to hear their case, and what would be the result?

Our wives, children and parents, are they also in dire straits?

What's there to talk about regarding fighting for our country if even our parents, wives and children can not be protected??

Those rich traders are bad?! At least they brought our information from the rear.

All the soldiers were staring at the Gao Xianzhi, and the Song Crown Prince, waiting for the fair decision of these two people. They were not doing this just for those deserters, but also for the worries in their own heart.

The Song Crown Prince, looking at expression in the eyes of those soldiers, his complexion became even more gloomy.

“Crown Prince, you see, this is just the beginning. If you kill the rich traders, and kill those the people who are divulging the information, do you want to block their pathway to information? Would it not be the same as being in cahoots with those dog officials? For you they have busted their ass, however, you want to instigate those dog officials to continue to harm their wives, children and parents?” Gao Xianzhi sneered and said.

The Song Crown Prince was intimidated and scared.

“This, is this Gu Hai’s scheme? He wants to create commotion in our camp, cause internal strife in the army?” The Song Crown Prince, with an ugly complexion, looked towards him and said.

“Definitely his, in the past simply no information has come, but why did so much information suddenly emerge regarding thirty families? I think the local officials can not be so foolish. At this time they may have harmed some of the soldiers’ families, but not this many at the same time. Besides the information spread to the whole barrack in a moments notice!” Gao Xianzhi said in a heavy tone.

“Hiss, this is Gu Hai’s hands. It can truly stretch so long, and actually stretched into my barrack? Commander, fortunately you found out in time, otherwise, if I killed those rich traders in anger, and sealed the information, it is still undetermined if I would have been lead around by Gu Hai’s clever tricks!” said the Song Crown Prince with an ugly complexion.

Gao Xianzhi nodded his head and said, “Yes!”

“Now what do we do?” The Song Crown Prince inquired.

“Gu Hai has already pried out a small hole in army’s morale, and naturally we have no alternative but to take it seriously. However, it is still impossible to seal it off completely, but we can sparsely block it, then I will gradually resolve it!” Gao Xianzhi solemnly said.

The Crown Prince nodded his head.

“Gentlemen, I, Gao Xianzhi assure you the sanctity of military personnels. In

the meantime, those who dare to harm the soldiers’ families, I’ll definitely make them pay tenfold, even hundredfold, and this is my, Gao Xianzhi’s, promise to you. So please, gentlemen, believe in your commander!” Gao Xianzhi loudly shouted.

All the soldiers looked together at Gao Xianzhi. Gao Xianzhi’s commitment eventually had some effect. However, in the end, suspicion, like the devil’s temptation, seeped into the soldiers’ hearts, and looked at Gao Xianzhi and how he would deal with it.

“You guarantee, what can you guarantee? Before coming here, my daughter was only two years old, and just started walking. She was holding my legs and shouting daddy, but the dog officials trampled my daughter to death.”

“My father died early, and my mother reared me and my brother up. She would help people by mending and sewing for them everyday to support me. She sewed more and more, and in the end her eyes can not see. I’ve never been afraid of death, and just for military service and rewards I conscripted for war and fought in the frontlines. In the future after returning from war I wanted to be filial to my mother, but damn that county magistrate young master, just for my family’s piece of land, he burned my blind mother along with the house. Mother, this son is unfilial!”

“Before coming here, I just married my childhood sweetheart Xiao Huan. Xiao Huan didn’t let me to go to war, but against her wishes I still came. In the frontlines while I was risking my life, the county sheriff coveted my beautiful Xiao Huan, and she was kidnapped. My brother was looking for her, but he was viciously beaten to stop. Today he came to tell me and do I still go to war? Who am I to fight for? I busted my ass, and you want my family members to be broken up and die? Dog official, dog official!”

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The group of deserters painfully cried.

The other onlooking soldiers empathized even more and clenched their fists.

One by one everyone's hearts became extremely heavy.

The Song Crown Prince wanted to drive away all the soldiers in the square, in order to stop the effects from spreading out, however, Gao Xianzhi stopped him as the more you block the more panic it would create.

The thirty deserters did not stop describing and Gao Xianzhi carefully listened to them too.

In a blink two hours passed, and everything was straightened out. Subsequently his brows were tightly knit.

The whole square was quiet, and everyone was looking at Gao Xianzhi.

Everlasting Immortal Firmament - Chapter

7.2

Stabbed Right at the Heart of Camp – Part 2

“I have carefully listened to your descriptions, and also guessed some things. Gentlemen, I ask you to listen carefully to what I say, what message did you obtain? Is it your loved ones that have been abducted, or were they taken somewhere and killed? You haven’t seen their corpses, moreover, your loved ones who relayed you the information, they also have not seen with their own eyes, your loved ones being captured or being killed. They have only have heard, and no matter how likely it is, but it is only a speculation, right?” Gao Xianzhi stared at those twenty six people and said in a heavy tone.

“Uh?”

“But my brother would not lie to me!”

“My cousin would also not lie to me!”

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Everyone was chaotically speaking.

“Yes, they would not lie to you, but, what if they were also being cheated?” Gao Xianzhi said in a heavy tone.

“En?”

“Gentlemen, don’t you think it is strange? Previously we have not received that many bad news, but suddenly so many emerged. I can tell you, all of this was done by Gu Hai, the richest man in all six empires, his purpose is to create

mutiny in my army!” Gao Xianzhi solemnly said.

“But.....!”

“Why should I believe you!”

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The complexion of those twenty six people turned ugly.

“Do not believe me, but as long as you know, if they are alive we must see them living, If they’re dead we must see their corpses, so do not give up the hope until you’re sure. I will right away ask the sovereign to command and find your loved ones. Dispatch the various regional government authorities, and look for them continuously. If they are alive we must see them living, but if they are dead must we see their corpse. This way is better than you running back confused. A city looking for them, is better than you looking for them alone. Am I right?” Gao Xianzhi comforted them.

“But, will you be able to find?” One deserter asked with a sliver of hope.

“We will be searching from door to door, and even if they’re buried three feet under we will still be able to find them. I will give you an account of everything that happens. What do think?” said Gao Xianzhi with a firm look in his eyes.

“Thanks a lot commander, thanks a lot commander!” The group of deserters knelt down and cried.

Gao Xianzhi turned around to see the other four deserters whose eyes were still red.

“Commander? What about us? Our case is not fake, right? My brother saw my blind old mother burned to death in the house, and it was done by the county magistrate young master. My blind old mother!” One of the deserters with red eyes stared at Gao Xianzhi.

Gao Xianzhi with a look of respect said, “The four of you, the information you got is irrefutable proof, and nobody is allowed to shed your tears and blood again. No matter who, that count magistrate’s young master? No, as long as

they have participated in harming your families, everyone will be immediately executed!”

“Commander?” The four people stared at Gao Xianzhi.

“You will personally supervise their punishment!” Gao Xianzhi said with a resolute look in his eyes.

“Commander, thanks a lot commander!”

“Thanks a lot commander!”

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The four people were grateful and constantly kowtowing, and perhaps in their lifetime they would not have a chance quell their hatred, but today their commander himself had taken the responsibility and given them the chance to get justice again, so how could they not be grateful?

Gao Xianzhi turned around and said in a deep tone, “Crown Prince, I’ll immediately file a petition to the sovereign, asking the sovereign to fully cooperate. This time Gu Hai is very threatening, so I also ask for the Crown Prince’s support. We must report this together. To resist the foreign enemy first there must first be internal stability!”

The Song Crown Prince looked at the congregation of deserters, and nodded his head, “Ok!”

Gao Xianzhi turned around and once again looking at the congregation of soldiers, said, “Soldiers, I know in your heart you’re worried, rest assured, I Gao Xianzhi promise to all of you present here that effective immediately, all of you are allowed to write letters to your families. I will allow all of you to send messages to your family, but, as long as they do not involve military secrets. Gentlemen, is it possible for you to accomplish this!”

“Thank a lot, commander!” Suddenly countless soldiers loudly promised.

Their previous concerns were completely gone as their commander had allowed them to exchange messages with their family, so that they could know

their families were safe. It could also let their family know of their own situation. It was great and their commander was still good.

Originally there was a trace of restlessness in their hearts, which had not suddenly entirely disappeared.

“But gentlemen, you can also see, these deserters, except for these four who can not be helped, but for the rest of the twenty six people, it is probably Gu Hai’s scheme. That’s why, gentlemen if you encounter any difficult matters that makes you feel sad, you can report to me. This commander will be responsible for you and resolve it for you!” Gao Xianzhi loudly shouted.

“Gu Hai is really hateful!”

“Commander rest assured, if there is anything we’ll definitely report it to you!”

“Damn Gu Hai!”

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“Commander, what should we do about the rich traders?” Ling Chong standing beside him asked.

Gao Xianzhi’s brows slightly wrinkled, “Gu Hai has already made his move, but it was my carelessness that I didn’t notice. Firecrackers? Fireworks? Ah, sitting at the Hulao Pass, however, he can control my camp 1000 li away? Those rich traders, let them continue, but, next time they should be monitored, and also from today onwards, if you want to console the army you must remain low-key. Firecrackers, fireworks, all of it must be stopped, otherwise, we have to deal with a confused army!”

“Yes!” The congregation of soldiers nodded their head.

The crisis of deserting soldiers was suppressed by Gao Xianzhi.

The army gradually dispersed, and all in accordance with the normal procedure they carried on with their normal routine.

Gao Xianzhi, and the Song Crown Prince returned to tent inside.

Gao Xianzhi personally wrote a letter and covered it with his seal, and the Song Crown Prince also holding his own personal seal covered it up.

“Commander, now all of your soldiers are frank and open, and their hatred is mostly directed towards Gu Hai. The soldiers will not worry again. Isn’t it a bit too harsh to you ask father emperor to use severe penalties against those aristocrats?” Song Crown Prince said with some worry.

“No, your highness Crown Prince, you have no idea how frightening Gu Hai is. Haven’t you seen? Gu Hai, while sitting in his home, he has already started to mess up my troops morale. Gu Hai has not even moved out for the battle, and has already used a real sword and spear to stab. This is the battle of human heart. Previously it was only a diversion, perhaps Gu Hai will one day be able to break us, now do you know how terrifying he is?” Gao Xianzhi said with an ugly complexion.

“Ah? Is it that bad?” The Song Crown Prince frowned.

“Bad? Ha ha, crown prince you misjudge him. Once Gu Hai breaks the morale of the army, the 800 000 strong army will immediately be destroyed at once. The Song Empire will be in imminent danger, and then can be instantly destroyed!” Gao Xianzhi said in a heavy tone.

“What?”

“That’s why, Crown Prince you yourself measure it. Your Song family’s country, or those aristocrats who are seeking death. Who will you choose? My humble self is not saying things just to frighten you!” Gao Xianzhi solemnly said.

The Song Crown Prince’s eyelids were crazily twitching, and he nodded his head, “Do not worry, I’ll write a letter to father emperor, and fully cooperate with you!”

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Half a month later, Song Empire’s Imperial Capital, Song City.

Gu Hai, and Gu Han, the father and son duo, were standing in front of the imperial decree, watching the imperial decree that was just posted.

“Foster father, Gao Xianzhi’s reaction was very quick, he has immediately

resolved the crisis!” Gu Han solemnly said.

“Gao Xianzhi is indeed very talented, and persuaded the King of Song Empire so quickly. He expended all of his force just to look after the military personnel’s families, and whoever harmed soldiers families, are to be all completely killed with no survivors? What is more is that he has allowed the soldiers to exchange letters with their families? Ha ha ha!” In the eyes of Gu Hai flashed a trace of admiration.

“Foster father, about the matter we fabricated, the military personnel’s families’ disappearance, are we still going to continue it? The soldiers seem to counter accuse foster father’s name.”

“Have they start to hate me? Oh, if this is the result, then continue, continue to die away! On one side they hate me, but on the other side they also continue to be suspicious of the Song Empire elites, so how are they going to hate me again? Later on they will know hating me is the source of the destruction of the Song Empire!” Gu Hai said while smiling.

“But, Gao Xianzhi has stabilized the soldiers morale!”

“Stabilized? But I’ve already planted a seed of chaos, and everything has just only started, I’ll introduce an endless loop to them. Will Gao Xianzhi also be thinking of its solution? He will not be able to solve it!” Gu Hai looking at imperial decree, said with a trace of mocking smile.

Everlasting Immortal Firmament - Chapter

8.1

In The Next Life Do Not Speak Of loving Me Again

Traders City, Gao Xianzhi Camp!

Inside the large tent in the center.

Song Crown Prince and Gao Xianzhi were sitting and savouring tea while Lin Chong was respectfully standing in front of them.

“How is the current morale of the soldiers?” Song Crown Prince smiled and asked.

Lin Chong nodded his head and responded, “Commander’s arrangements really made the soldiers more active, and at the same time directed their hate towards Gu Hai. Now that they are able to exchange letters with their families, their morale has improved to an all time high. When they are seighing the cities all around everyone is far more fierce, and we’re conquering the cities within the three passes quicker and faster!”

“What about those rich traders?” Gao Xianzhi asked while drinking some tea.

“Now those rich traders do not dare to be willful or use the fireworks or firecrackers! Everything they do now is very low-key, at most bringing some news from the rear or some secretly mixed victims. However, after the commander’s explanation, the victim’s families who have disappeared place all the blame onto Gu Hai. All the soldiers accusations have fallen onto Gu Hai and the soldiers do not have that much of a temper now!” Ling Chong replied with admiration.

“Gu Hai... This person’s schemes are very hard to detect. Those rich traders are also being very careful and are merely observing. They have not made major

contacts with the soldiers for a long time.. Whoever defies is to be immediately arrested!” Gao Xianzhi said while drinking some tea.

“Yes, commander! Rest assured, however...!” Lin Chong suddenly frowned.

“Oh?” Gao Xianzhi’s expression suddenly became extremely serious. What tricks are happening this time?

Ever since Gao Xianzhi learned that Gu Hai was his opponent, he never dared to be even a little bit lax. Even for the most minor detail he is very cautious. After all, the recent mutiny almost silently occurred.

Long Chong looked at Song Crown Prince.

“What happened? Do you need me to leave?” Song Crown Prince said with a calm expression.

“No. Commander, Crown Prince, you should know that although Gu Hai may have kidnapped some military families and placed the blame on the local officials. Although it is wrong, it has caused quite a panic. Even commander has to ask the Sovereign to order severe sentences to deal with this problem. In order to safeguard our army’s morale, perhaps this ‘exterminating’ event will continue to occur!” Lin Chong explained.

“Yes. Now we can only search high and low for them. This matter we all know already, how is it any different this time around?” Gao Xianzhi doubtfully asked.

“This time the target being accused is our current dynasty’s emperor grandson, Song Zhengxi!” Lin Chong said in a heavy tone.

“What?” Song Crown Prince’s complexion suddenly took a turn as he stood up.

The Emperor’s grandson? That is his own son! His son is far away in the imperial capital Song City, how could he be framed?

Gao Xianzhi’s pupils also contracted.

“Before it was just ordinary officials and aristocrats. However this time the target is the Emperor grandson? This time around has Gu Hai finally revealed his fangs?” Gao Xianzhi said while his complexion became ugly.

“What happened?” asked Song Crown Prince, his complexion too changed.

“Information came from Song City, there are fifteen more family exterminating massacres and all the fingers are pointed at Song Zhengxi. Furthermore the reason was that Song Zhengxi converted a beauty and caused havoc in Song City. Now we have fifteen soldiers who are kneeling in front of my tent, begging me to request the commander to make a decision!” Lin Chong frowned.

“Darn Gu Hai! Shifting blame onto my son!? Lin Chong have you explained this to them clearly? These are all slanderous accusations!” Song Crown Prince shouted anxiously.

Lin Chong said with a wrinkled brow, “Subordinate has checked the new information. All fifteen letters from the soldier’s loved ones or next of kin. However there are thirteen people who Gu Hai has not yet executed their families and they are instead missing !”

“Wait... If Gu Hai just directly killed these families and blamed my son, would it not be more advantageous for him?” Song Crown Prince frowned and said.

“Not good, not good!” Gao Xianzhi’s complexion immediately changed.

“How?”

“I just realized that Gu Hai’s intentions are extremely malicious and terrifying. He almost blind sighted me again, in his devilish schemes there are hidden deadly traps! Gu Hai kidnapped a group of dependents, however although the soldiers hate Gu Hai for it there is a sliver of hope in their heart. They believed that their relatives are alive... at least they are still alive! While they hate Gu Hai, their hatred has not yet reached the point where they want Gu Hai to be brutally murdered because he has not yet killed their families. In their hearts, these soldiers thought Gu Hai abducted them, which on the contrary results in a much better outcome for us. However, if the words the messenger said are true, then it is truly a piece of bad news for us. I have managed to suppress their anger and thought, but they have not yet been fully calmed down and restrained. If this barely suppressed anger is released once more, even if I were to say something no one would listen to it. Besides, in the case that their loved ones are truly in Gu Hai’s hand, then these soldiers will be very cautious in taking action during the time of battle! Although these are only a few individuals, this desolate mode will spread! I do not know if Gu Hai has thought of any other plots to use on them,

and if they were somehow instigated to rebel, would they not...!” Gao Xianzhi complexion was changing unceasingly .

“Instigated to rebel? Gasp!” Song Crown Prince sucked in a mouthful of cold air.

“Lin Chong, you say that among these fifteen soldiers, thirteen of their families are unaccounted for. But in addition that leave two more, what about them?” Gao Xianzhi asked, staring Lin Chong.

Lin Chong’s complexion immediately became ugly. He looked towards the Crown Prince, lowered his head and said, “It is certain that it was the Emperor’s grandson, Song Zhengxi’s doings!”

“En?” Song Crown Prince’s complexion immediately sank.

“Crown Prince, subordinate has personally heard that the Emperor’s grandson, Song Zhengzi, relying on his identity all these years and destroyed many decent women. Are you not also clear, on this matter? Before the war started between the two countries, Crown Prince, you requested the Song City Officials to keep an eye on him and help suppress any scandals from the Emperor’s grandson!” Ling Chong said in a low tone.

“Bang!” Song Crown Prince slapped the table.

“Lin Chong. are you sure it was the Emperor’s grandson?” Gao Xianzhi’s face was ugly as he asked.

“Yes. Both people are my subordinates. Your follower knows that both of their sisters are extremely beautiful. In fact, both of them wanted to betrothal them with me, but I already have Xiaodie and I did not want to have concubines so I did not marry them. The messenger that came is their life and death brother, a disabled war veteran. He was training at home and witnessed everything with his own eyes. Even the bodies of their family members, furthermore he even brought some of their family keepsakes!” Ling Chong said in a low tone.

Pa! Song Crown Prince sat down on the chair.

“Little bastard! Before leaving I specifically told him to not cause any trouble. Along the way I continued to write letters home to his mother to restrain him. I had not thought... I never thought....!” Song Crown Prince painfully said.

“Previously you said that the information came from their life and death brother? Is the person passing the information reliable? Perhaps he was bought by Gu Hai. You should know that some friendships are not as thick as they seem. Their relationship could have not gone through anything and may have sold out to the right price.” Gao Xianzhi said in a heavy tone.

Song Crown Prince’s eyes lit up. Right! Maybe the informant was bought out.

“Subordinate can not guarantee anything. However, they have been kneeling outside of my tent seeking commander to deal vengeance in their place and accordingly enact severe punishment.

They request for the Emperor’s grandson to be immediately severely punish for bullying their dependents, and that he must be immediately beheaded for his crime! They earnestly requested the commander to handle it impartially! For their loved ones revenge!” Lin Chong said in a heavy tone.

“This... this matter has not yet been verified. How can he be severely punished?” Song Crown Prince anxiously said.

Lin Chong looked at Song Crown Prince and said, “Crown Prince, although subordinate can not guarantee anything, but the Emperor’s grandson has truly been doing these things. Moreover, previously only you could suppress the Emperor’s grandson in Song City. Now that you have left for so long, not many people can restrain the Emperor’s grandson. Even if Gu Hai had truly bribed the informant, this time he also did things with certainty. Even before those fifteen soldiers went to battle, the Emperor’s grandson had already taken a stance that made them loathe him. It was already deeply engraved in their hearts. Furthermore if you still believe the informant is questionable, and once again I can not guarantee, but there I believe that there is at least a 90% chance that he is not a problem. I have personally seen that person and he is someone who would rather die than submit. He is heavily righteous and affectionate, moreover there is a dead body this time as evidence!”

“There’s at least a 90% chance it may be due to my son?” Son Crown Prince’s complexion became ugly because of this.

“They want it to be dealt according with the army law and want the Emperor’s grandson to be excuted!” Lin Chong nodded his head.

“Song Zhenxi can not die!” Gao Xianzhi complexion sank as he declared.

“En?” Song Crown Prince eyes lit up as he looked at Gao Xianzhi.

Gao Xianzhi complexion became gloomy.

“From what I can understand, the Emperor’s grandson is just a banner. Today, if the Emperor’s grandson is killed then evidence against the current Taishi will be sent tomorrow. The day after that, evidence against the current Prime Minister will arise. Followed by the Princes, and then the Emperor’s own father! At that point in time, the Emperor’s relatives and other nobles would be killed everyday, shaking the foundation and morale of the army! During the battles they would try and fight, the royal court in our homeland will be extremely scared and jittery. It would become a matter that could shake the foundation of the entire Song Empire! Gao Xianzhi said with an ugly complexion.

[TLN: During the Han Dynasty, the three highest civil posts (三公) were Taishi 太师, Taifu 太傅 and Taibao 太保 respectively. These were the three highest civil positions at the time (modern equivalent ~ White House Chief of Staff or prime minister), and were roughly equivalent in rank to the subsequent position of 宰相 (Chancellor of China). 太师 was the most senior of the three.

Taishi can be translated as Senior Grand Tutor,

Taifu can be translated as Grand Tutor,

Taibao can be translated as Assistant Grand Tutor.

They are the tutor of Crown Prince]

“Song Zhengxi can not die?” Lin Chong said with a surprise as he looked at Gao Xianzhi.

Everlasting Immortal Firmament - Chapter 8.2

Chapter 8—In the Next Life, Do Not Speak of Loving Me Again (Part Two)

(Translated by Ash)

“Gu Hai’s scheme are too concentrated, and can not be allowed to happen again. You need to convene all the soldiers right away and enter the decisive battle as soon as possible. Immediately send the soldiers to Hulao pass, even if they’re injured they must fight! End this battle as soon as possible, otherwise no one could save us!” Gao Xianzhi said with an ugly expression.

“That’s finished, now what do I do about those fifteen soldiers? They’re still kneeling outside my tent!” Ling Chong said with a worried tone.

The Song Crown Prince also stared at Gao Xianzhi. At this moment, the Song and Chen War was related to everything. If Gao Xianzhi was really looking to kill Song Zhengxi, even he, as the crown prince, could not stop it. He truly could not stop it, people in higher positions than the current sovereign from the immortal sects were observing. He simply could not save Song Zhengxi.

But now, Gao Xianzhi wanted to save Song Zhengxi?

“Commander, you like this can it not be counted as abuse of power? Shielding the wicked and scolding the virtuous?” Lin Chong’s brows wrinkled as he said.

“No, the current situation is worse than I’ve imagined, must immediately suppress it, Crown Prince, I’ll leave the command to you, immediately recall all

the soldiers attacking the cities, immediately gather the 800,000 soldiers, and rally these soldiers to Hulao Pass. As long as Hulao Pass is broken, any of Gu Hai's schemes will also be rendered useless!" Gao Xianzhi said in a heavy tone.

"Good!" Song Crown Prince gratefully nodded his head.

"What about Song Zhengxi?" Lin Chong looking at Gao Xianzhi.

"Previously you said out of those fifteen people kneeling outside your tent, thirteen of them should be easy to restrain, all of the dirty water should be splashed on Gu Hai. All soldiers in the camp whose family members have been missing, immediately select them and allow them to go their respective families, they can search for their families with together with the entire city, they should be willing for this." Gao Xianzhi said in a heavy tone.

"Subordinate understand, these destabilizing factors are selected and thrown away, but, regarding those two soldiers it is 90% sure that Song Zhengxi harmed those soldiers families, what about them?" Lin Chong asked in a heavy tone.

"Calm them, block the information, even make them return to imperial capital to inquire exactly what happened, be sure to constraint the information to a minimum!" Gao Xianzhi said in a heavy tone.

"What if they firmly wants the commander to take responsibility for them?" Lin Chong frowned and said.

"At the moment, the overall situation is serious! Lin Chong, you've been following me for many years, you should understand, merciful people can not command the troops!" A wisp of coldness flashed in the eyes of Gao Xianzhi.

"Yes!" Lin Chong frowned as he walked out of the camp.

Song Crown Prince quickly issued all the commands one by one.

Lin Chong once again met those fifteen kneeling people.

He appeased the thirteen people among them and poured all the dirty water on Gu Hai, he also let them go back and pack their luggage in preparation for returning to imperial capital to look for their loved ones.

Finally, only two soldiers were left staring at Lin Chong.

Those two eyes were already red from crying, they were kneeling on the

ground and refused to stand up.

“Tear!”

A man ripped his shirt.

“Sir, you see, my body is riddled with scars while following you and fighting with you together, followed you for these many years, I never had a complained, but now, my little sister was defiled, my old mother was killed, and my entire family had been eliminated to silence them, I only ask sir to help me take justice. Sir, subordinate had followed you for so many years, and today is asking your help for this one matter, is it not good?”

“Sir, you do not persuade us, who is Lao Wu, you already know. His life was saved by me, he was disabled and can only move with extreme difficulty. He has no children, how could he be moved by money? Even if they were to give him more money, it is still useless to him, can he still lie to me? What about the keepsake he brought, is it nothing? That was my sister’s little pendant, has been hanging around her neck, never left her body, inside her clothes. Nobody knows about it, how can Lao Wu get it, if not from my sister’s corpse? Sir!”

Two unceasingly kowtowed.

At the moment Lin Chong in his heart did not feel any better. although he believed the two, but the commander had already explained everything...

“Do not worry. Immediately head back to the imperial capital. Check clearly if this is true, then...!”

“No, if we go back, who will believe us? This time subordinate asks the Commander to once again to take responsibility, we two are little people, it may be even impossible for us to return to the camp. Although I’m uneducated, I understand that if we do not get the commander’s order today, later on there will never be an opportunity!”

Sir, I know, before it was only petty officials who bullied, even if they were killed it doesn’t have any relation, but this time it is the emperor grandson, he is genuine VIP. We are nothing more than ants, perhaps halfway on the road nobody will know how we died!”

“Sir, I’ve already spread out the information, and now a lot of people know in

the barrack that emperor grandson destroyed my whole family, during the war, according to law he must be beheaded! But that is VIP of high level, who would dare to ask him for trouble? In the future he will be the Crown Prince, later on he will be the Sovereign. In our entire lifetime we will be unable get our revenge! Didn't the Commander say he will take responsibility for us and give us justice? Now, make the him take responsibility! If the Commander does not make a decision, then is just farting! Commanders military orders are just fart!"

"Presumptuous!" Lin Chong's stared them with wide open eyes

Suddenly the two desperately knocked their head.

"Sir, we want revenge, even if we die, I still want the revenge! In the first place, for conscription, we only came to fight because we listened to you, but, listening to you, our family are dead. Sir, woo woo woo woo.....!"

At the moment, Lin Chong was also very sad, but there was no way way.

"Sir, we busted our ass for what? Song Zhengxi is our future king, we busted our ass for him and he get hold of our family in the rear! Woo woo woo!" Another man cried and said.

"Commander can certainly give us an explanation, but, at the moment the war is at most critical phase, wait till the end of war, I'll risk my own life and ask the Ccommander for you to get justice!" Lin Chong advised.

"Sir, you're better clear than us, after the end of war nobody will listen the words of the Commander, what's the use?Woo woo woo!" Another man cried and said.

Lin Chong clenched his teeths, at this moment he decided to be cruel-hearted. Look at the duo, a wisp of unbearable coldness glowed in his eyes. His hands pressed above the hilt of his blade.

"Brother-in-law, brother-in-law!" Suddenly, outside the large tent an anxious crying sound came.

Looking at it where it came from, there was an extremely emaciated man, with a pale face and tattered clothes. He rushed into the large tent, behind him two guards soon followed.

“Sir, I saw it was your family, so he was not blocked!” Two guard came and explained.

“Yes, you go out!” Lin Chong nodded his head.

Two guards immediately went out.

“Xiao Yu, what happened, why are you here? How are you like this?” Lin Chong asked while surprised.

Seeing Lin Chong, Xiao Yu suddenly cried once again.

“Brother-in law, you must get revenge for sister, sister died with injustice unredressed, woo woo woo woo woo woo.....!” Xiao Yu kneeling on the ground and holding Lin Chong’s leg cried.

“Xiaodie? Xiaodie? What happened to Xiaodie?” Lin Chong suddenly had a crazy look, the hands pressing on the blade hilts suddenly trembled. He was looking at the emancipated man with shock.

“Sister, sister had been killed by emperor grandson Song Zhengxi, our whole village people, all had been killed by Song Zhengxi lackeys, a fire burned everything, completely dead, everyone are dead! Woo woo woo woo!” Xiao Yu cried with misery.

Weng!

Lin Chong suddenly felt dizzy. Suddenly a scene before going to battle flooded his mind.

Everlasting Immortal Firmament - Chapter

8.3

In The Next Life Do Not Speak Of Loving Me Again – Part 3

“Husband, whether it’s good or bad, don’t go to war! Don’t we have a wealthy father, is that not enough? I’m afraid, don’t go to the war!”

“Xiaodie, believe in me all right? I’m following the commander, as long as commander is there, I will not be any danger, believe me!”

“But, woo woo woo..., then if you go and in a 10000 in 1 chance you encounter any mishap, then what are you going to do? I can not live without you!”

“Nothing would happen, I’m following the general to achieve something, it is my life’s dream, believe me!”

“But, in the war lot of people dies, and if you....., woo woo!”

“I have already decided to leave, you do not say anything! If I die, in the next life I’ll love you again!”

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In my next life, I’ll love you again?

Lin Chong suddenly staggered, I very much wanted to follow the Commander, and so in a moment of anger I said so. Moreover, I thought only I would be in danger. It can not be you, Xiaodie, it can not be you!

When I think of it now, at that time how sad Xiaodie would have been! Why did I not consider it from Xiaodie’s point of view, how could I’ve been so selfish?

Xiaodie? I do not want to love you again in the next life, I want to love you in

this life!

Lin Chong was trembling, Xiao Yu once again said.

“Brother-in-law, it was Song Zhengxi, it was him, you know during the previous lantern festival, he took a fancy to sister. After you left, Song Zhengxi several times harassed the sister, but sister refused, until that day, until that day, Song Zhengxi wanted to assault sister, in turn he was slapped by sister, he went back to find a group of people, wanted to forcefully and wantonly insult sister!” Xiao Yu cried and said.

“Song Zhengxi?” Lin Chong whole body was shaking.

“Sister dared to die but wasn’t willing to obey. She bashed her head against the pillar and died. Song Zhengxi got angry, and made a subordinate wantonly insult sister’s corpse. Furthermore he killed the all the villagers, and even sister’s corpse was not let off! Excluding me, every person was struck by a sword, the entire village was burnt off, all dead, all dead, woo woo woo!” Xiao Yu cried while speaking.

Plop!

Lin Chong was suddenly kneeling on the ground, grabbed his head due to pain, from this incomparable pain.

On a side note, he had wanted to achieve meritorious deeds during this expedition. More importantly, when the expedition would be over, at the time of his return he would have been a higher official. At that time he wanted Xiaodie to be his official wife, then they would be happy forever, but...!

“Xiaodie, I should not have left, I should not have left! When you needed me the most, I was helping Song Zhengxi go to war, I was helping Song Zhengxi go to war!” Lin Chong holding his head cried.

“Brother-in-law, sister before dieing after bashing her head against the wall, looked northward, looked at your direction and said! And it was very sad!” Xiao Yu woefully said.

“Sister said, ‘Lin Chong, in your next life, do not speak of loving me again!’” Xiao Yu painfully recalled.

In your next life do not speak of loving me again?

In my next life do not speak of loving her again?

Do not speak of loving me again?

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In Lin Chong’s mind constantly played back scenes of Xiaodie’s despair and helplessness and also being disheartened at the point of death!

“Ah!” Lin Chong holding his head, screamed again and again.

Lin Chong cry was very loud, his screams were very painful, which resounded in the whole barrack.

“Sir, do you also want to silence our mouth? Also want Song Zhengxi to be free and fretted from the laws?”

“What shit big picture, bullshit war, I can live as long as the family is alive, sir, please, make commander give us revenge!”

“Sir, woo woo woo woo woo!”

Large tent inside sounds of sobbing resounded.

After a good while...

Lin Chong painfully shouted, and it already motivated every follower of his inside the barracks

Lin Chong shambled outside the tent like a zombie, followed by Xiao Yu and the two victimized soldiers, they gradually walked towards the outside of a large military tent.

They arrived outside the Gao Xianzhi’s tent.

Lin Chong slowly took off his battle robes, took off his official robes. Shirtless, he knelt down outside Gao Xianzhi’s tent. His body was riddled with countless hideous scars, sending chills to anyone who looks at them

Two soldiers behind also similarly took their shirts, revealing their hideous

scars. Together, they knelt outside Gao Xianzhi's tent.

"Commander, Lin Chong had followed commander for fifteen years, killed 500 people, heavily injured ten times, lightly injured fifty times, risk's own life, went through fire and water, never complained. However, today, Lin Chong family had been destroyed and decimated, earnestly request commander to take responsibility and grant us justice, justify army law, justify country law, behead Emperor's grandson, Song Zhengxi!"

"Earnestly request commander to honor their commitment, justify army law, behead Song Zhengxi!" Two victimized soldiers also painfully yelled.

The previously thirteen soldiers who were advised to check the information also quickly ran over.

"Earnestly request commander, justify army law, behead Song Zhengxi!" Those thirteen soldiers too yelled.

And the soldiers who followed Lin Chong and risked their lives, when they got the information, looking at Lin Chong kneeling, they too followed and knelt down.

Lin Chong was Gao Xianzhi's pioneer general, always in the first line of battle, in face of death shoulder to shoulder fought with his teammates, was their genuine life and death brother. Lin Chong saluting sound, was followed by hundred of soldiers kneeling down.

Not too long after, outside Gao Xianzhi's tent, there was already 500 soldiers were kneeling, each had taken off their shirts, revealing numerous hideous scars they got during battles.

Lin Chong deeply knew, quietly looking for Xianzhi will certainly be useless, if he wants revenge, he could only if the whole army was made aware of it.

Really, at the moment, in the camp hundred of thousands of soldiers had heard Lin Chong's loud shout.

Punish the Emperor's grandson? The person who in the future was very likely to be the sovereign, was it possible?

Lin Chong's suffering whether it was true or not was one thing, and the

commander's attitude was another. Could the commander, for Lin Chong sake, offend the Emperor's grandson? Not long ago, what the commander had promised, would he be able to deliver it? Whether or not because of the opposite party's identity, commander will reclaim what he previously said? Military order like mountain, or the military order would be just a trifling matter?

Many people were concerned about it.

Song Crown Prince on the other side ordering the troops, suddenly heard Lin Chong shouts to behead Song Zhengxi, in his heart he too shivered.

And Gao Xianzhi at the moment, was sitting inside his own tent, sitting on his chair, across the curtain, looking outside the large tent, although he had not seen, but Gao Xianzhi has already guessed the situation outside, his frown became like 川 character.

“Pa!”

The tea cup in Gao Xianzhi's hand was broken.

“Gu Hai, I underestimated your speed, can't you even give me the time to take a breath?” said Gao Xianzhi as his complexion became ugly.

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Song Empire's Imperial Capital, Song City.

Gu Han was looking at one limping man in front of him, that crippled man with gloomy complexion was staring at Gu Han.

“Letter, I've already written, I hope you can deliver your promise, do not hurt my two brother's families!” That crippled said in a heavy tone.

“Lao Wu, do not worry, they are absolutely safe! This time we had no choice, also please forgive me, two armies are fighting, there will be casualties, we do so to make the casualties minimum, and once this war is over, all of them will be safe!” Gu Han solemnly said.

The crippled squeezed his fists, he could do nothing but endure.

Originally, the tragedies of Lin Chong's two subordinate's families were all false.

Gu Han after arranging the crippled Lao Wu, he went to see Gu Hai.

Gu Hai at the moment was looking at a Weiqi board, he was lost in his thoughts.

“Foster father, have you not seen the new information?” Gu Han asked.

“Even if it was the flying pigeon who were passing the messages, there would be too much lag in getting the information, it’s not worth looking, at the moment, perhaps a commotion has already started in Lin Chong’s camp!” Gu Hai said while smilingly placing a black piece.

“Foster father, did you from the beginning prepared so many true and false information just for this Lin Chong?” Gu Hai curiously asked.

“Yes, both true and false information has no relation, as long as the most crucial information is true, everything will be all right, Song Zhengxi is only himself to blame for the reason to get punished! Beside encountering the current Emperor’s grandson was just a matter of coincidence!” Gu Hai said while once again placed the white piece.

“But, if we have not encountered Song Zhengxi, then what would you have done?” Gu Han curiously said.

“If this matter had not occurred?” Gu Hai stopped playing and looked at Gu Han.

“Yes, if Song Zhenxi haven’t killed Xiaodie?”

“Haha, no relation, originally this plan was called ‘Something out of nothing’. No Xiaodie? there is still Xiao Mao, Xiao Hua, Xiao Wen. Besides speaking of this, in the beginning I was not at all prepared to use Song Zhengxi, after all Emperor’s grandson’s identity is still not sufficiently grandous, inside the Song City, there is also Taishi, as well as the prime minister. Using them for the opening act, all does not have any relation. The most crucial point is that they only need to play the part of my black piece, in my cup there can be more than one black piece!” Gu Hai said with a laugh.

While speaking, from the a little cup containing a lot of black piece on the side, he took out a black piece and placed it in one location on the Weiqi board in the front.

Gu Han expression moved a little, nodded his head and said, “So it seems, Song Zhengxi himself getting caught is just his bad luck, as for his position, anyone can replace it?”

“Yes!” Gu Hai Slightly smiled.

“But such a high price operation, only for this Lin Chong, is one Song Zhengxi enough?” Gu han said with some worry.

“Is enough, because he is Emperor’s grandson, now all 800,000 soldiers are definitely looking, looking to see what kind of explanation would Gao Xianzhi is going to give the whole army!” Gu Hai said with a slight smile containing a trace of confidence.

“If I’m Gao Xianzhi, even if it is the Emperor’s grandson, will also kill!” Gu Han after a moment of losing in his thoughts said.

“Yes, kill! But, this game have just started, that’s why, I want this Emperor’s grandson, alive!” Gu Hai while speaking gradually placed a white piece on the Weiqi board.

Pa!

Everlasting Immortal Firmament - Chapter 9

Chapter 9—Uncertain Troops

Merchant City, within the Song Troops' barracks! Outside of Gao Xianzhi's tent!

Following Lin Chong's exposure of his upper body, revealing the great amount of fierce-looking knife scars as he kneeled on the floor, more and more people followed his lead in kneeling. In the flash of an eye, five hundred people followed Lin Chong and kneeled.

After the information was spread, all of the soldiers in succession had came to know of the extreme evil of the emperor's grandson. In the rear, the disgraced deserters whose family members had been murdered stood, while near the front were those who had also received the critical news; the soldiers that had been suppressed by Gao Xianzhi also one after another followed Lin Chong into kneeling down.

That was the emperor's esteemed grandson, it was as if his whole nature had been put onto a banner. Within everybody's heart was a certain weight; would the Commander, in order to placate all the officers and soldiers, treat everybody equally fairly? If the next day it was my family members that had met with an unfortunate mishap, would the Commander, in order to to preserve his status, choose to sacrifice me?

The soldiers oftentimes had their lives and death intersect. Once one person kneeled, an intimate friend would mutually follow; similar to the domino effect, everybody went down in a chain reaction.

Five hundred, one thousand, two thousand, four thousand, eight thousand, ten thousand, twenty thousand...!

“We request earnestly of the Commander, according the code of law, he has killed my loved ones, so behead him immediately!”

“We request earnestly of the Commander, according the code of law, he has killed my loved ones, so behead him immediately!”

“We request earnestly of the Commander, according the code of law, he has killed my loved ones, so behead him immediately!”

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First one could count hundreds, then it was thousands, and then it was in the ten thousands. After a while, the clamoring of the soldiers seemed to surpass all of the nine sky divisions¹; the pandemonium seemed to bring out an aura of wrath, while the wrath seemed to bring out an aura of unwillingness. Finally, the chaos seemed to converge together into one loud roar.

While all of the soldiers were all roaring, the sound covered the entire Merchant City.

In a place not very far away, the Song Crown Prince heard the enormous roar that seemed to shake the very heaven and earth. Seeing more and more kneeling soldiers, within the Song Crown Prince’s heart penetrated a momentary chill.

This was not just a flare up in the barracks, this was mutiny! Not long ago, in the first flare up, there had been several thousand times more people participating, although in this mutiny, the innumerable amount of people were furthermore seeing red from both eyes.

“How did it end up like this? How did it end up like this?” The Song Crown Prince appallingly watched this scene.

Within Gao Xianzhi’s tent.

Gao Xianzhi released the broken teacup inside of his palm. His complexion was unsightly as he spoke: “Gu Hai? So it turns out that experience really does

matter in battle! Originally you seized all those troops in order to let panic overtake my barracks? You waited all these days, just for today, in order to force my entire army against me?”

For a very long time, Gao Xianzhi was incapable of remaining calm. Only after a long period of overwhelming feeling inside his chest had passed, did he slowly calm down.

In the outside world, the sound seemed to shake Merchant City to its very foundations, as if asking oneself to show respect in order for justice. The amount of kneeling soldiers grew more and more, more and more.

Gao Xianzhi rose up, slowly striding outside of his tent.

In a place not very far away the Song Crown Prince panickedly ran over, looking towards the direction where Gao Xianzhi was currently walking out of the tent.

“Commander!” Everybody shouted loudly in one collected sound.

“Commander! I request earnestly for the Commander to reenact the code of law, and get revenge for Xiao Die! This subordinate is willing to exchange his own life in order to end his!” Lin Chong wept in rage.

“Boom, boom, boom...!”

Lin Chong unceasingly kowtowed on the ground, his head covered entirely with blood as a result of banging it against the ground.

Blood, tears, and mud mixed on his face, resulting in him looking incomparably miserable.

Seeing Lin Chong, Gao Xianzhi deeply inhaled a breath of air. It was true that this mutiny was single-handedly brought about by Lin Chong, but, Gao Xianzhi did not blame him. Contrariwise, inside his eyes flashed a trace of guilt.

Because Gao Xianzhi remembered, even if there was no Lin Chong, Gu Hai would still be able to create an affair similar to today’s events. Furthermore, this Lin Chong had followed him for many years, and had always executed his commands without the slightest amount of doubt, always rushing to get ahead, the knife scars on his body all caused from accomplishing his orders. All these years, even if Lin Chong had suffered a grave injury he would not allow himself to

cry; but presently, as he kneeled in front of him, his entire self looked as if he were going to fall apart.

“We request earnestly of the Commander, according the code of law, he has killed my loved ones, so behead him immediately!”

The numbering about a hundred thousand kneeling soldiers simultaneously released a loud shout; there was a sort of morale that surrounded them, a kind of morale that no one would ever be able to obstruct. This moment, everybody was all looking at Gao Xianzhi, waiting for the Commander to address the unanimous morale of the entire army.

The emperor’s grandson, to be beheaded immediately?

Gao Xianzhi looked at the hundred thousand kneeling soldiers in front of him, his mind feeling distracted, as if he saw Gu Hai wearing armour, standing in front of him. At the present moment Gu Hai was the Commander, and was currently commanding his own hundred thousand soldiers to go against him.

The Commander of eight hundred thousand troops was no longer himself, but under the spell of Gu Hai?

At the present moment, the Gu Hai in his trance was holding a double-edged sword, pointing it at Gao Xianzhi. Just given the right order, these numbering about a hundred thousand troops would kill him, as if ripping him apart into fragments.

For a split second, Gao Xianzhi had a kind of fearful feeling, and shuddered.

“Commander?” From not very far away, the Song Crown Prince rushed over, an extremely unsightly expression on his face.

The Song Crown Prince was not a fool. At the present moment, with the entire army rebelling, could it be that he couldn’t see the current circumstances? The morale of the troops could not fall apart; one the morale of the troops fell apart, then the Song Empire would be in danger, and the entire country of Song would crumble apart. The morale of the troops, was the basis of the nation! This was the most important! But, simultaneously this really was his own son. Song Zhengxi you hoodlum, why did you kill all the family members of the soldiers.

“We request earnestly of the Commander, according the code of law, he has

killed my loved ones, so behead him immediately!" The entire army once again exuded a loud roar.

Dimly, Gao Xianzhi gave a small quiver; watching the army, he solemnly shouted: "Soldiers!"

The army immediately stopped, as one looking towards Gao Xianzhi.

"This Commander has said before, anyone who brings disgrace by killing the family members of soldiers, no matter who it is, will be beheaded immediately!" Gao Xianzhi severely shouted.

With that one severe shout, the entire army furthermore quieted.

"No matter who it is, even if it is the emperor's grandson, he will receive the same punishment. I, Gao Xianzhi, guarantee to you, as long as the emperor's grandson really killed the family members of all those soldiers, I will throw away all my military duties, as well as report it to the emperor. Reenact the code of law, I will immediately reenact the code of law!" Gao Xianzhi fiercely shouted.

The Song Crown Prince stumbled in his steps. It was as if, in that moment, all of his strength had been completely removed.

The originally anxious soldiers, their hearts trembling, regarded Gao Xianzhi with increasingly more confidence and trust. What the Commander said he would do, he would do; he surely would get to the bottom of this.

"Commander, are those words of yours really true? In what way can I believe you?" Lin Chong spoke, his eyes red.

No one else knew about it, but he, Lin Chong, understood that not long ago Gao Xianzhi had still wanted to cover up the disgraceful deeds of the Emperor's grandson. Now could it be that he was still deceiving him?

Lin Chong, having previously experienced a conspiracy, was now scared to trust Gao Xianzhi.

Gao Xianzhi looked at Lin Chong, sighing in his heart.

"What I say I will do I will definitely do. Since you are so anxious in this way, then set out and accompany me immediately towards the imperial capital Song City. As long as this affair can be verified to be true, I will immediately request

the Emperor to behead the Emperor's grandson! Is that good enough for you?" Gao Xianzhi solemnly spoke.

"The Commander is going to personally leave for the imperial capital?" The crowd of soldiers immediately revealed astonished expressions.

At the present moment, Gao Xianzhi was not doing this of his own volition. This situation would have to be handled with the utmost seriousness, or else the suspicions within the soldiers' hearts would become more and more frightening; as the crisis brew, slowly Gu Hai would be able to take advantage of them.

"Thanks to the Commander, thanks to the commander!" Lin Chong unceasingly kowtowed on the ground.

"Soldiers!" Gao Xianzhi looked towards the numbering about a hundred thousand soldiers.

"Today I want to address the entire barracks, about why it would turn out like this. I also want to say that everything is happening because of Gu Hai's interference, but I understand that there are definitely people who will not believe me. However, all the commitments that I, Gao Xianzhi, have promised to do, have always been honored. I hope that you will trust me, Gao Xianzhi; as I have said before, to all those soldiers that have had their family members disgraced, we will have him beheaded immediately! Lin Chong and a group of imperial soldiers will accompany me to the imperial capital, to act as witness for everybody that the punishment according the code of law has been dealt out. I hope that all of you will not be misled by any other false news whatsoever! Because, all of this is caused by Gu Hai's interference!" Gao Xianzhi shouted clearly.

All of the soldiers looked at one another at the same time, tightly furrowing their eyebrows. It was true, before there really were no matters like this, but now the entire army was staging a mutiny? Was this really something that had been caused by Gu Hai?

There were some that believed this, but there were also some, who, as before, held some traces of disbelief; that Gu Hai was not a god, so how could it be possible that he was so powerful?

"My request is not particularly hard. As long as everyone, during the time that

I depart the camp, do not trust any rumors that float around, even if you have the greatest of grievances, wait for me to return first. I will see to everyone later on, but until then, comply with all of your military orders. Understand?” Gao Xianzhi solemnly shouted.

All of the soldiers looked towards Gao Xianzhi, their former adoration growing with Gao Xianzhi’s upright and plainspoken speech. In a moment, countless amounts of people answered together.

“Yes!”

“Honor the Commander’s orders!”

“Honor the orders!”

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All of the soldiers in the army one after another shouted loudly, promising that during the time Gao Xianzhi left the camps, regardless of any rumors in the camp they would not flare up, waiting for Gao Xianzhi’s return.

“Lin Chong, as you will accompany me to the imperial capital, immediately prepare for the trip; in two hours we will depart!” Gao Xianzhi loudly shouted.

“Yes!” Lin Chong loudly shouted in response.

Gao Xianzhi, having once more appeased the army, returned back into the large tent.

Within the large tent, the Song Crown Prince was extremely dazed; as he looked at Gao Xianzhi, his appearance was incomparably complicated. Gao Xianzhi wanted to return to kill his only son, but he was helpless to do anything, truly absolutely helpless. Inside of his heart there was unwillingness and anger, but there was really no way out of this.

“Crown Prince, in accordance to what has been discussed before, you will immediately consolidate eight hundred thousand troops to set out towards Hulao Pass immediately. Make haste, make haste, make haste!” Gao Xianzhi had an extremely unsightly expression on his face.

“I will, only, when will you return?” The Song Crown Prince bitterly spoke.

At the present moment, Gao Xianzhi was not in the mood to comfort the Song Crown Prince. A country’s major events could not be allowed to fail; with the Song Crown Prince’s intelligence, he should have been able to see that.

“I will proceed to the imperial capital at top speed, which will require about eight days of time. Travelling straight from the imperial capital to Hulao Pass, will roughly take about fourteen days. In the imperial capital we might experience some delay, so in roughly twenty something days we will be able to return. However, for you to command the entire army towards Hulao Pass, with a long-term raid such as this, your speed will definitely be very slow, and will also require twenty something days before you reach Hulao Pass. About the same time you reach Hulao Pass, we will have returned!” Gao Xianzhi profoundly spoke.

“Has it already reached the time for the decisive battle?”

“Yes, I previously researched about Gu Hai’s tactics. He had previously spoke about ‘using ten to encircle, using five to attack, much like the strategy of divide and conquer!’, and that ‘encircling’ was the best strategy! Before we had oppressed the best of the Chen Kingdom’s soldiers with psychological attacks, but, but now that our opponent is Gu Hai, the more we attempt to drag them down, the more detrimental it is to ourselves. We can only use brute force, I now understand. Not that we will be using brute force, it will eventually evoke the enemy troop’s desire to fight until death; at that time my troops will certainly suffer disastrous damage, but, the overall damage we will take will be very light. It can only be in this way. If immediately the entire army travels straight towards Hulao Pass, after we defeat them, the Chen Kingdom will be annihilated, and everything else will end as well!” Gao Xianzhi profoundly spoke.

“I understand now! But if you go now, what if it is another one of Gu Hai’s tricks, will he ambush you?” The Song Crown Prince knit his brows together and frowned as he spoke.

“If it is according to normal luring the tiger away from the mountain² tactics, he definitely will. This is the best chance to do so; however, he is Gu Hai, I am unable to guess his intentions. However, you can be reassured, I have prepared

for this. I will bring with me a group of elites to accompany me; simultaneously, doesn't the Song Sect have extremely powerful people who have achieved Xiantian Periphery or higher? They are always making discreet inquiries about my first-hand information, so therefore, when they follow me, they will definitely protect me to a certain extent." Gao Xianzhi solemnly spoke.

"My imperial secret guard will also be transferred to you!" The Song Crown Prince clenched his teeth tightly as he spoke.

Appointing innumerable experts to protect Gao Xianzhi while he went to kill his own son? The Song Crown Prince's heart was suffering incomparably.

Gao Xianzhi did not decline, nodding his head.

"Hulao Pass has our own spies in it. Crown Prince, when you go, coordinate with these spies, and be extremely careful!"

Having finished briefing, he left the camp at a high speed, heading towards the direction of the imperial capital Song City.

Song City, Tian Mansion.

Gu Hai was currently sipping at a cup of green tea, when Gu Han quickly ran inside.

"Father, the pigeon has just delivered a letter; Gao Xianzhi brought a group of people with him to leave the barracks, and should travel directly to Song City, currently leaving now! Do you want for him to stay?" Gu Hai brought a trace of excitement with him as he spoke.

"No need, we can't make him stay anyway. By Gao Xianzhi's side there is definitely many extremely powerful people; wanting to assassinate him is practically impossible, so just let him arrive according to plan!" Gu Hai drank a mouthful of tea, smiling as he spoke.

"Yes!"

¹Some Chinese schools of cosmology believe in the concept of the "nine sky divisions" (九天), which is made up of the middle sky and the eight directions.

²This is a famous Chinese military strategy where one lures their adversary

away from their territory, leaving both the opponent and the territory vulnerable.